Chrysler Workers Face The Shutdown

KEEP STRONG

October, 1979 *Voices of Chicago's Communities* $1.00

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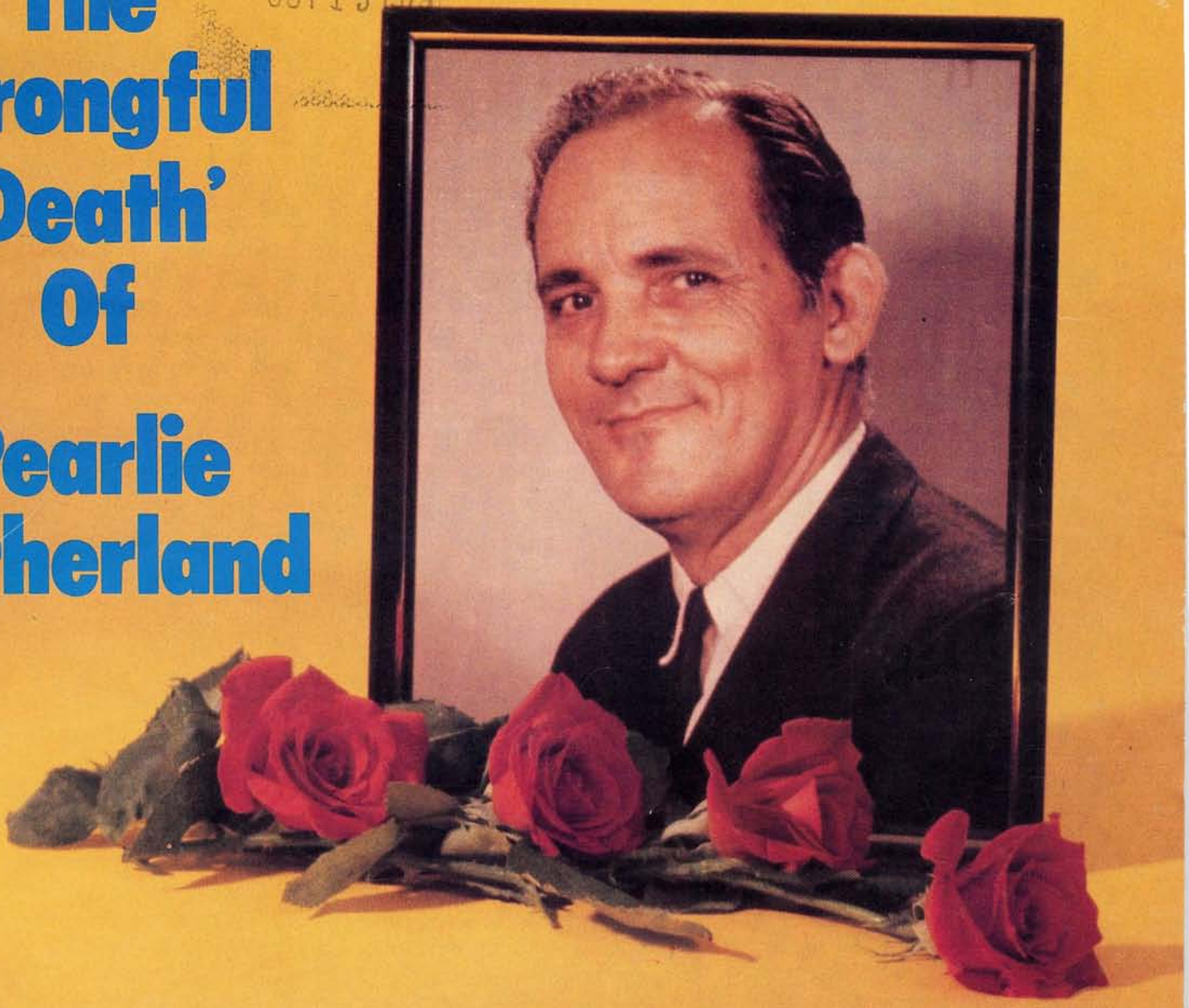
The 'Wrongful Death' Of Pearlie Sutherland



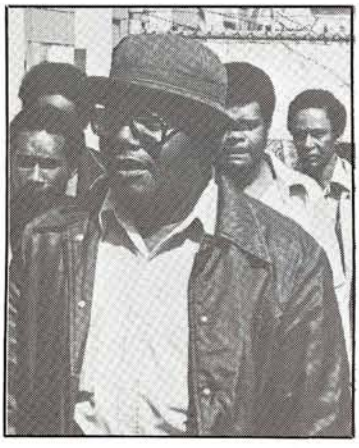
Also Inside: ■The Bears' Alan Page—13 Years On The Line ■Community Focus—Pilsen ■Pontiac Brothers Closer To Trial ■UFW Lettuce Boycott ■Interview—Mike Holewinski

THIS MONTH IN

7 California iceberg lettuce and the 'Red Coach' label are the targets of the United Farm Workers boycott. Union Vice-President Frank Ortiz outlines the reasons, the tactics and the union's recent string of successes.

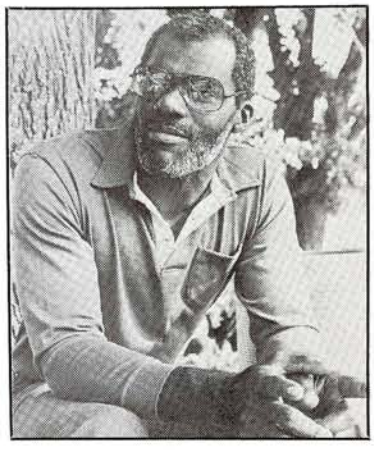
14 The Pilsen community has been in transition for over 30 years. It's still changing. The difference is that the people are organized and moving to shape their destiny. Part 1 of a 2-part series.

36 Pearlie Sutherland lived in Uptown and died there at age 55. He lived minutes from the hospital but the fire dept. rescue squad took one hour to get him there. What really happened in those 60 minutes?



39 Fifteen years ago the Dodge Main Plant in Hamtramck, Michigan employed over 36,000 workers. Today only 1,700 remain. Production workers discuss Chrysler's plans to shut down Dodge Main and its impact.

50 The fight won't be even until we have a program to fight for. Helen Shiller and Slim Coleman offer this proposal and want you to respond. Part 1 of a 2 part series.



74 Alan Page reviews his career in pro football and gives some thoughts on racism, his ouster from Minnesota and the 'New look' Chicago Bears in "13 Years On the Line."

KEEP STRONG...

CONTENTS

FEATURES

The 'Wrongful Death' of Pearlie Sutherland 36
Chrysler Workers Face The Shutdown 39
Inside The Public Building Commission 44
Rebuild The Country For And From The Communities — Proposal For A National Program 50

REPORTS

Unemployment — *GAO Report Urges Cuts In Jobless Benefits* 3
Real Estate — *6330 Winthrop-The Bathtub Stays Filled In Case The Water Goes Off* 5
Labor — *'Red Coach' Lettuce Targeted As UFW Opens Boycott In Chicago* 7
Inflation Fighters — *Uptown Youth Take Care Of Business* 10
Community Focus — *Pilsen Fights Back: Pilsen Planning Coalition In Action - Part I* 14
Criminal Justice — *Pontiac Brothers Closer To Trial* 16
City News-*Byrne's Housing Plan Reviewed....Action On Gay Rights Deferred....Police Motor Pool Scandal — How High Up Does It Go?...Library Seeks Arrests Of Delinquent Borrowers* 24
Transportation-*New RTA Law Cheats City Riders, Fares To Rise* 31

JUSTICE

Homer Phillips: The Final Hour-St. Louis Masterplan Forces Closing Of Black City Hospital....New FBI Charter Raises Old Fears.... Talk Of New Trucker Shutdown....The Duke Is Nuked 56

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS

Nonaligned Conference Report....Release Of Puerto Rican Freedom Fighters....Chile....El Salvador....Ireland 63

AND...

Editorial — *"The Sweeter The Pie, The Bigger The Bite"* 2
Keep Strong Interview-*Mike Holewinski: Fighting In The Machine's Front Yard* 19
Behind The Faces — *Bror Johansson* 11
Looking Back — *Fannie Lou Hamer, Freedom Fighter* 32
Sports — *Alan Page: 13 Years On The Line* 74

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From The Editor

Friends,

Those of you who are skeptical about the need for a program should spend a few days in Detroit. It's not really different from Chicago or any major American city except that thousands of people have been put out of work simultaneously by a corporate monster that's out of control. When will we learn that politicians and union officials, with very few exceptions, are only effective when they're scared. And the thing that scares them the most is us.

We are printing the program (page 50) because we believe the lack of one puts oppressed and progressive people at a serious disadvantage and there needs to be a continuous dialogue. This magazine is as good a place as any to promote it. Responses are invited.

If you want to know where your property taxes, or a chunk of your monthly rent ends up, the report from our research department on the Public Building Commission (page 44) should provide a few details that are not publicized very much. After reading it you'll know why.

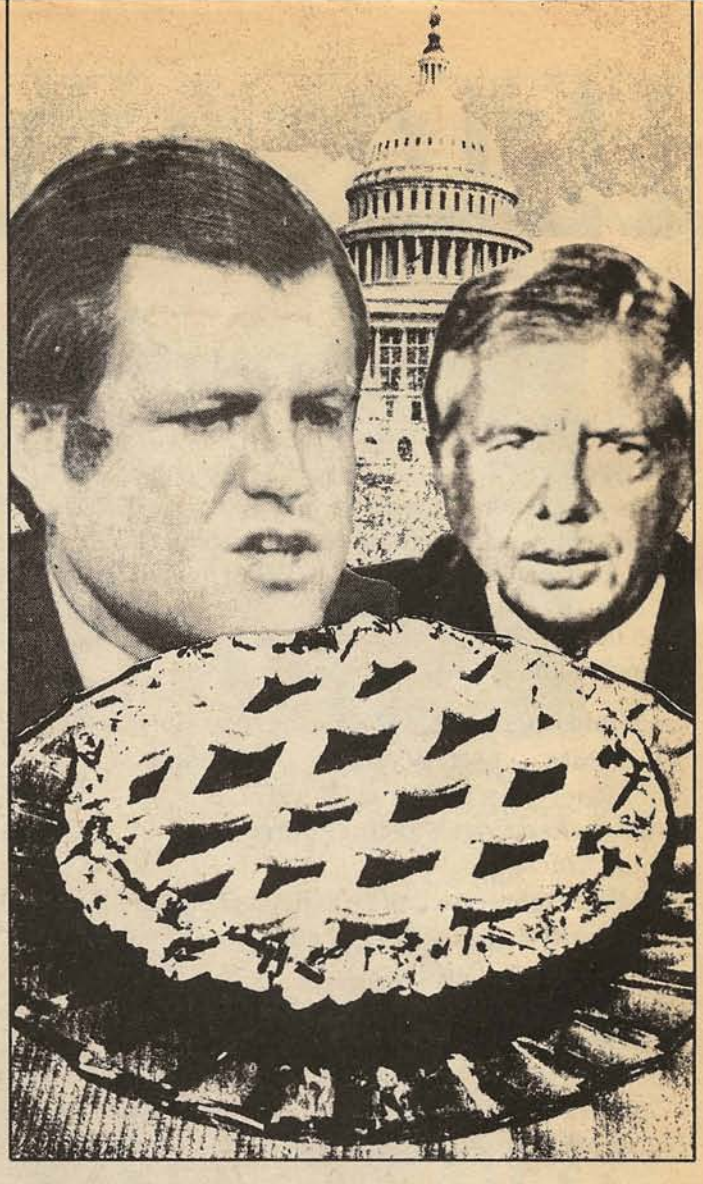
A few thank yous. First, to our friends in Pilsen for adding still another side to the magazine (page 14). Secondly, to Howard Robinson, who we met on a street corner, for taking us all over Detroit and making possible the interviews that are the heart of the story (page 39). And to Mrs. T. who let us use the store she works in to interview the Chrysler workers. And thirdly, to Alan Page, a fine gentleman, for his forthright honesty (page 74).

Marc Zalkin, Acting Editor

Cover by Tom Lindsay

EDITORIAL

The Sweeter The Pie, The Bigger The Bite



Rose Kennedy has said it's all right for Ted to run for President. But Jimmy Carter has said he'll whip Ted's ass in a one to one primary race for the Party nomination. Tip O'Neill has announced that Ted could have the support of the New England Congressional delegation for the asking. But Carter's media advisers, Gerald Rafshoon and Patrick Caddell, have plenty of tricks up their sleeves. Meanwhile, on the West Coast, Jerry Brown is plotting his strategy to capture the Democratic Party's nomination and sweep to the Presidency. It's all very exciting.

On Magnolia Street, Pearlie Sutherland dies lying in a puddle of his own sweat as the men from the Fire Department Rescue Unit laugh at him. In Detroit, 50,000 Chrysler workers have been laid off because the company built more cars than it could sell in 1979 and the union agreed long ago not to interfere with production and scheduling matters. In Louisiana, federal officials are denied entrance to a sugar plantation where Black laborers are kept in servitude. In New York, 2,000 commuters have to be carried from a burning transit car through a smoke filled tube a mile long because a crooked city bureaucrat bought millions of dollars in defective equipment from a company that greased him. It's getting more exciting.

The political history of this country has been the forming of coalitions of various interest groups, calling themselves parties, solely for the purpose of thrusting candidates into office. After the elections, the interest groups call on their candidates, remind them of how they got in office and stick their hands out. That's how the system is supposed to work and it's not too exciting.

But the coalitions that call themselves Parties and the candidates that call themselves honest never heard of Pearlie Sutherland, don't know about speed-ups in auto plants, throw up their hands about layoffs and shutdowns and don't ride the New York subway to and from work.

For them politics is business. And offices are booty from which jobs, contracts and favors flow between elections. The greater the booty, the bigger the election effort.

The great majority of us don't get the jobs, or the contracts, and aren't in a position to use the favors. We don't get close enough to the oven to smell the pie. We better not depend on Jerry Browns, Ted Kennedys, Jimmy Carters and their partners to solve our problems.

We need a program that speaks to what we see as necessary. We need to build a broad based movement unified around that program. We need to jam that program down the throats of all those looking for votes. Then there'll be some excitement. □

Government Report Urges Cuts In Jobless Benefits

(Washington, D.C.) The United States General Accounting Office (GAO) reported in August that recipients of unemployment compensation often have little financial incentive to work. Their report, sent to Congress, was based on data obtained from interviewing 3,000 recipients of unemployment compensation.

The purpose of unemployment insurance is to insure workers against lost income by providing temporary compensation for those who lose their jobs. The program also helps to stabilize the economy by providing laid-off workers with some purchasing power and encouraging employers to maintain steady employment levels. Weekly compensation in most states is half of a recipient's average weekly gross wage before becoming unemployed, up to a maximum limit.

GAO's interviews with 3,000 persons showed that compensation, either

along or combined with other income, replaced an average of 64 percent of a recipient's net income before unemployment.

Increases in federal, state and local income and social security taxes since the 1930's, have reduced the amount of take-home pay and resulted in a significant gap between gross and net income. Because unemployment compensation is based on gross income, the increased taxes have resulted in unemployment compensation replacing a higher percentage of take-home pay. The GAO report also states that retirement income such as social security, private and military pensions, when combined with unemployment compensation, reduce some recipients' financial incentive to look for work. Expenses such as transportation, and child care are substantially lower or nonexistent during unemployment.

The jobs they offered him were further south than the one he held before, and paid a lot less.

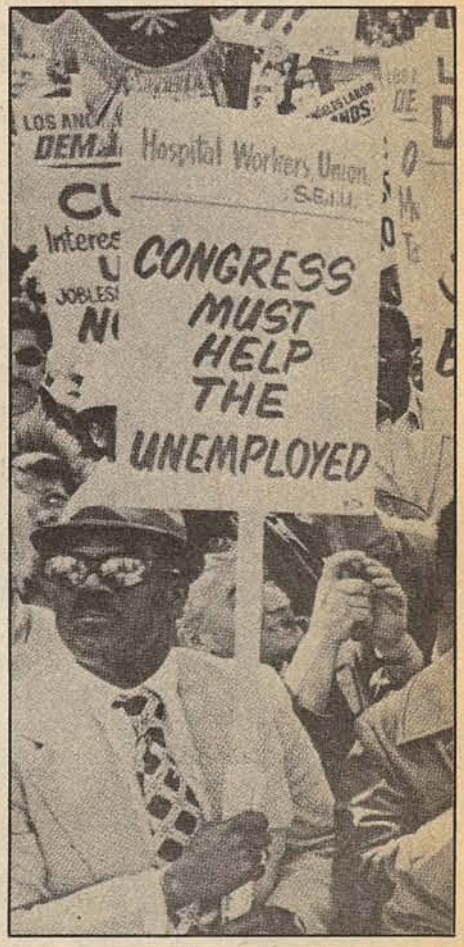
Unemployment compensation was not taxed until 1979 and is now taxed only at high income levels. The GAO favors including all unemployment compensation as taxable income.

GAO believes that the evidence presented in their report strongly warrants congressional action to ensure that all recipients of unemployment benefits have adequate work incentives.

The U.S. Department of Labor had a different point of view. In their comments on the report, DOL questioned the statistical analysis of the data and the policy recommendations. They say that any action taken by Congress, based on this GAO report ought to consider the income necessary to tide unemployed workers over a temporary period of joblessness until they find suitable work. Recent studies have found that even a 50 percent replacement level is not adequate. Many claimants fail to reach the 50 percent rate because of the maximum weekly benefit amount.

KEEP STRONG talked to people in Chicago who were applying for unemployment benefits and did not find anyone who expressed the desire to remain unemployed any longer than necessary.

One of the applicants at the claims



Unions urge Congress to increase benefits for the unemployed. Recent studies conclude that present benefits are inadequate for survival.

office was a young man with his wife and nine month old baby. He was a truck driver with a Class D license who worked for a linen outfit on the far south side. The boss said, "If you are late you will be fired." He was 5 or 10 minutes late because of the distance from his home and was subsequently fired. He applied for unemployment insurance on August 23. The company he worked for said "he quit" and as of September 7th he had not been able to resolve the situation.

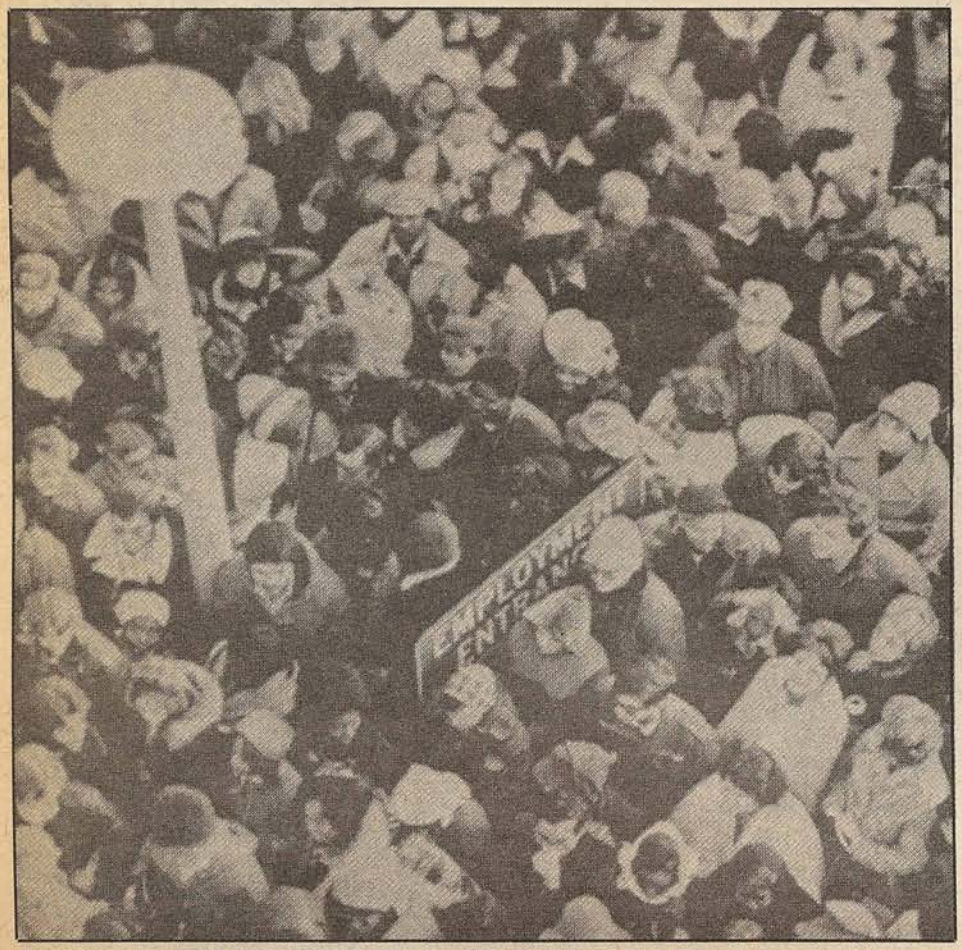
He has a lot more bills to pay than he could ever handle on the income he would receive from unemployment compensation. His pay scale was $9.45 an hour on the job; unemployment compensation would pay about $135 a week. When you have a family to take care of, expenses don't wait for a "2 week mailing period."

He was sent to a state job placement center at 901 Montrose. The jobs they offered him were further south than the one he held before, and paid a lot less. One job he went to apply for was as a mover. They told him that he was "too small" for the job.

This man believes that they should process the unemployment claims faster and doesn't understand the long waiting period. "The bills pile up and it becomes a real hassle. With all the things you have to go through, if there was any other way to go, I would. Something is better than nothing but there should be a different way."

The man felt that they could be more open in dealing with the public at the claims office. They try to downgrade you, treat you lower than necessary. A woman asked a question there and the man in the office bodily grabbed her by the arm and directed her to a piece of paper on the wall and said, "Read from here to here," and then walked away.

Unemployment benefits are 50 percent of what you made before, but studies show even that is not adequate to live on.



Despite a recent government survey charging that too many people receiving unemployment compensation lose their incentive to work, millions swarm plants like this one in Oklahoma seeking jobs which will bring a decent wage.

On September 10, we spoke with a claimant who applied on July 24 for unemployment benefits. He feels that he is getting the big runaround. They tell him to "wait two weeks," then come back in two weeks and so on. He ended up selling his car and his rent was due the next day. His problem was not his former employer, it was with the state. First they told him it would be two weeks; now it was six weeks since he applied. When you go to the office they tell you to "wait in this line," "go over to this other line," "see this person or that," "Come back tomorrow," things like that. He thinks that unemployment compensation in Illinois, at least in Chicago, is a rotten deal. They haven't come up with a job for him yet at the employment service. So he guesses that he will just have to wait it out.

None of the people waiting for the benefits seemed reluctant to look for work. Contrary to the GAO report they would rather be employed than on the line trying to collect their unemployment check. □

by Bev King

Bev King is a student at Shimer College.

6330 Winthrop — The Bathtub Stays Filled In Case The Water Goes Off

(Chicago, Ill.) John Williamson, 57, works in the Deep Tunnel Project and brings home $600 a week. His wife Carol works as a waitress in a near northside restaurant. The landlord says they are rent dodgers.

The court records show 6330 North Winthrop with 23 building code violations. John and Carol Williamson will show you a bathtub of water left standing in case the water goes off again.

The Williamsons have a lot to say about 6330 Winthrop, where they've lived since January of this year.

Their second child, Misty Sue was born in August. During the 6th month of pregnancy, Mrs. Williamson developed a complication called "Placenta previa". It forces the child to be delivered by Caesarean section and can cause hemorrhaging in the mother. The child, the mother, or both can die from the condition.

Close medical supervision and immediate hospital access are crucial. But how can you get good medical care when you live on the ninth floor and the elevators are both broken? Mrs. Williamson had to miss doctors appointments on three separate occasions because both the passenger and the freight elevator were out. The passenger elevator has been out since April. The doctor told her not to come in if she had to walk up and down nine flights of stairs to get there.

The doctor told her not to come in if she had to walk up and down nine flights of stairs.

At one point, she was so ill she walked down the stairs and checked into a hospital. After a couple of days, "They told me I could go home. I told them I was feeling so badly I didn't want to go home," remembers Mrs. Williamson. "It's a good thing I didn't because then I started hemorrhaging with the baby and they had to rush me right in. The doctor said if me and the baby had been home, we wouldn't have made it."

The landlord is Bernard Alzner, who bought the building two years ago and he owns several other buildings. The building was in housing court when Alzner made the purchase.

When contacted, Alzner at first said both elevators have been out for only a day or two, then he said no longer than two weeks and finally admitted they had been out on several occasions. Even today only the freight elevator works.

Alzner says when the elevators were out he "had two people, each weighing 250 pounds to carry Mrs. Williamson down the stairs." He says she was only having "false labor pains". One medical expert believes being carried down

John and Carol Williamson and their family live on the ninth floor at 6330 N. Winthrop. Mrs. Williamson had to miss her doctor's appointment three different times because the building's elevators broke down.

REAL ESTATE *continued*

the stairs like that could have killed her and the baby.

The 9-story, 62-unit building is in need of substantial renovation. Alzner blames the tenants for his problems claiming they destroy the building. But he concedes he has had poor management at the building. Resident managers were ripping him off. The building continues to go through housing court with little noticeable effect.

"I'm too old to get kicked in the ass anymore."

John Williamson explains he took two weeks to fix up the apartment before moving in. "We had to scrape all the grease off the walls, then I did the plastering and the painting myself. The manager used to show our apartment off to people who were thinking about renting. We got so sick of it we told her to stop bringing folks by."

Since moving in, the Williamsons say the water has been off several times and once for almost a week. They leave their bathtub standing full of water so they won't have to lug water up nine flights again. They report problems with the sewage backing up and have a crack in their apartment through which the next door apartment can be looked into.

In June, they got so sick of the conditions they stopped paying rent and are trying to find another place to live.

On August 18th they were served a 5-day notice by two men who either were or looked like deputy sheriffs in full uniform. The Sheriff's Department by law has no role or power in serving such notices. Deputy sheriffs deliver only court summons' when court dates are set.

Alzner explained, "The deputies were in the building anyhow and offered to deliver the notices when I told them some of the tenants deny receiving them."

John Williamson says he's not a "rent dodger". "I make good money and my wife works too. I'm just too old to get kicked in the ass any more. I'm not trying to beat the man but by God I think he's trying to beat me."□

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Sydney Harris

United Farm Workers' rally and picket in Chicago last month. The UFW has launched a city-wide boycott of 'Red Coach' lettuce.

'Red Coach' Lettuce Targeted As UFW Opens Boycott In Chicago

(Chicago, Ill.) Encouraged by the signing of a dozen new contracts in less than a month in California, the United Farm Workers (UFW) have moved to open a full-scale boycott against the remaining holdout growers. An early morning rally and picket at South Water Street produce market on August 19 kicked off the latest effort of the farm workers union to use their most reliable weapon to bring the growers to meet their demands. Frank Ortiz, Vice-President of the Union, addressed the rally at Water Street and announced that United Brands, which had been the primary target of the union, had signed a new contract. Mr. Ortiz explained that the union was now going to put emphasis on the Bruce Church Corporation and their "Red Coach" label. The defeat of the union busting effort of United Brands quickly brought 11 other growers into line. Since the middle of August boycott organizers have been working in Chicago, meeting with labor, church and community organizations, to set up a city-wide campaign to remove California iceberg lettuce from the shelves.

Mr. Ortiz, a veteran organizer who has been with the UFW since its inception, has seen the effects of the boycott on the growers many times in the past. "You see, the growers are willing to put up with all kinds of losses. They're willing to pay police guards and anything else. But they're not willing to extend losses to their sales, their brands and labels. Their labels are important to them. Their products, their names, their prestige or whatever you want to call it. That's where they make a lot of money. The reason we have been so effective this time is because we got a lot of support from labor, church and local organizations. This stuff gets back to the grower right away...They know what's happening around here immediately...."

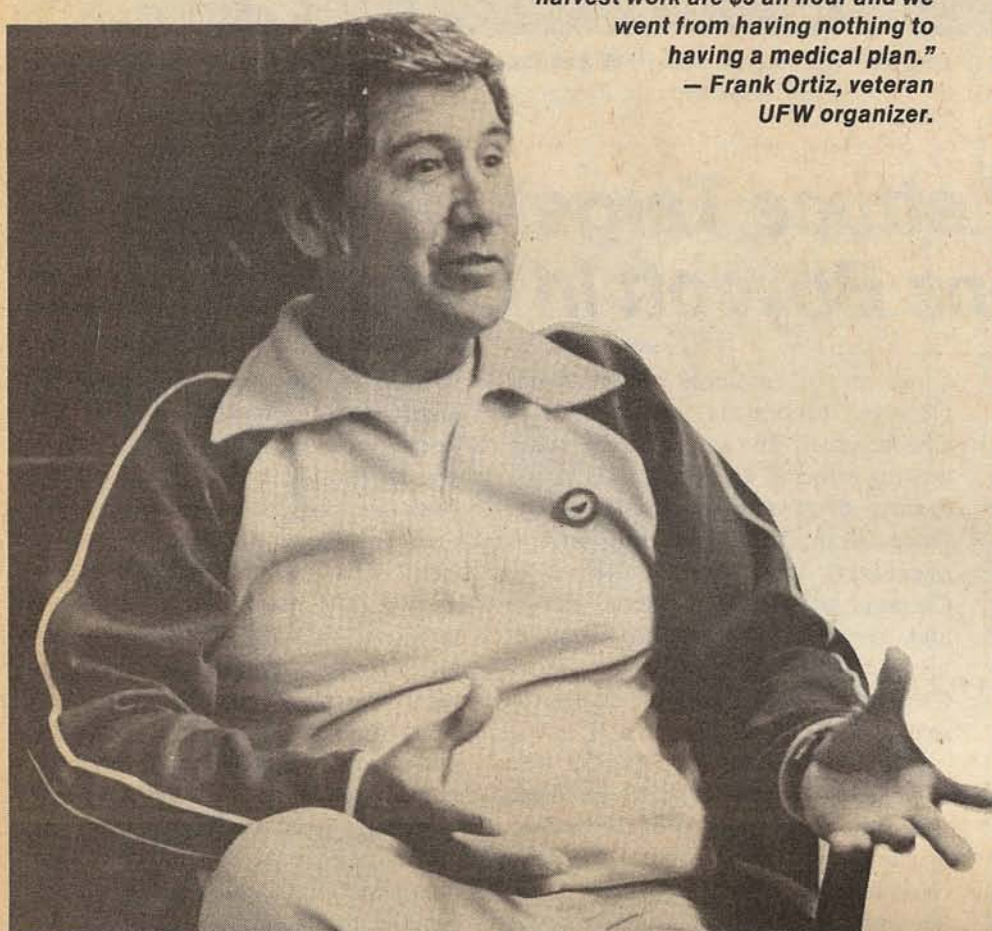
Reports from California have been that the new contracts are a lot more than paper and include significant new benefits to the workers in the fields.

Mr. Ortiz confirmed this. "We have a new language that the union steward will be paid by the company, like a full-time worker. Farm labor is really different than factory work. In industry, take auto workers, for example, you have ten thousand workers under one roof. One steward, two stewards, four or five stewards can handle all the grievances. They are right there. With us to have ten thousand workers in one valley, like the Salinas Valley, it's 80 to 100 miles long by 30 miles wide. There's no way that one or two persons can keep track of the grievances. Ten thousand workers might be in five or six hundred crews scattered all over the valley. There's no way conceivable that you could visit all the crews and deal with the problems even in a period of a year. It's impossible. Therefore, the contract is abused...problems arise. There's difficulties between management and labor because we can't keep track of it.

"With this new contract, depending on the size of the company (it's prorated, if we have 200 to 250 workers, then we get one paid steward, more than 250 we get two paid representatives), those two persons will not work. If they are lettuce packers they will not pack lettuce. They will see to it that the contract is abided by both sides. They will see to it that grievances are processed immediately. They will see to it that problems do not get out of proportion. Actually it will benefit the management as much as the union. We have set up a school to train these people. I will personally supervise it when we are finished with this boycott.

The boycott in Chicago will focus on the Church Corporation and their "Red Coach" Label.

"This will give our union staff a chance to develop more leadership, expand to other states, organize more workers, to do the work we're supposed to do."



"This is the best contract we've gotten in all our history. Wages for harvest work are $5 an hour and we went from having nothing to having a medical plan."
— Frank Ortiz, veteran UFW organizer.

The newly signed contracts with the growers reflect the union's ability to win demands on the basic bread and butter issues as well. Mr. Ortiz continues, "I wouldn't say we got what we wanted, but we're getting quite a bit. This is the best contract we've ever gotten in all of our history. The wages for harvest work are $5 an hour. By that I mean that people who work at producing harvest crops by the hour will get a minimum of $5 an hour. The medical plan — we believe it's a very good plan. Of course, we went from having nothing, to having a medical plan. We were getting 16 cents an hour for our work for a medical plan, compared to unions around here in industry in the city that get at least 50 cents an hour, up to a dollar in some instances. So now we're going to get 34 cents an hour, the first year. So it's more than doubled which is not the best I repeat, but it's very, very good. That won't double the benefits because of inflation, but we will get more benefits. The pension plan also got a raise, from 15 to 20 cents an hour."

Sources close to the UFW in California report that the union has undergone major changes in the last three years. It has shown the skills and I think it is very significant. The auto workers have a system of paid reps and I think that this is one of the biggest things that we've gotten.

organization of unions many times its size. Noticeable in the Chicago boycott campaign is the visible support of organized labor which Mr. Ortiz believes indicates something significant about Chicago and the rest of the country. "Chicago has always been a very good labor town. Lately, because of the trend, I think, of multinationals, agribusinesses (they're all the same), going to union busting, they feel that this is one of their fights also. It's all over the country. It's not only with us. They're doing it to everybody. I think that is bringing more awareness and support. Because that is what it is, union busting on the part of the growers. I guess they realize that as well, because it's happening to them. I visited 10 or 12 union presidents and secretaries, leaders, since I've been in Chicago. They've all been very supportive and want to help us however they can. I have no doubt that with the help of those unions, the churches and community organizations that we have talked to so far, the boycott will be over in a couple of months."

The defeat of the union-busting effort of United Brands quickly brought 11 other growers into line.

The strategy of the boycott in Chicago will be to focus attention on the Church Corporation and their "Red Coach" label. Markets and groceries throughout the city will be visited channeling the energies of thousands of church and union members and community residents and progressive activists into a swift two-week assault.

"The Red Coach label is the second largest producer of lettuce in California . It's a big corporation. They are the most anti-union and racist company in California. Right now we're getting to as many people as possible – we're going to the organizations.

"Then we're going to the neighborhoods and get all the neighborhood organizations, the unions in the neighborhoods and churches and ask them to go talk to supermarkets and take big delegations to the supermarkets and ask them to take the non-union lettuce out of the stores. And like I said, specifically, we're going to concentrate on Red Coach because it's the biggest one left and it's going to be the hardest one. Once we get him, then it will be all over. The rest will fall off," Mr. Ortiz explained. □

FARMWORKERS AFL-CIO

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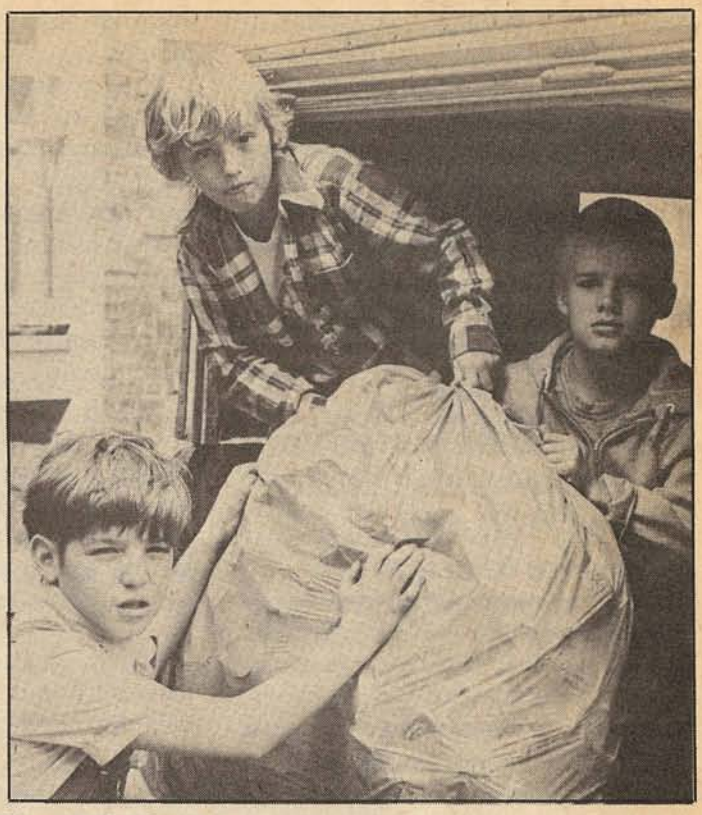


David, Tony and Jeffery Ball (upper right) collected 500 pounds of empty beer cans, cashed in on $200 and cleaned up part of their Uptown neighborhood.

(Chicago, Ill.) Three enterprising Uptown youth, combining hard work, community pride and a desire to provide their families with a decent Christmas, recently completed a five-week beer can collection project. Tony, David and Jeffery Ball – 11, 10 and 8 years of age – made $200 in the process.

"People think it's easy, but it's not," explained Jeffery. "It was hard work," said Tony. "Smashing them up, especially," added David, as the Ball brothers explained how they went through the neighborhood collecting beer cans in buggies and bags..."by Martin's gas station, behind a bar, on Kenmore, everywhere. Sometimes we smashed them where we picked them up and sometimes we waited till we got them home." Well over a hundred plastic bags, potato and orange sacks piled up in the basement of their Magnolia Street building, until a neighbor volunteered to take the cans to Serlin Iron and Metal on Bosworth where the aluminum cans rang up at 40 cents a pound. "If it's for the kids and Christmas, I'll do it for nothing," said a neighbor. "Just gas money."

Tony, David and Jeffery weren't worried about other youth competing for the beer can market, "It would be a cleaner neighborhood. There wouldn't be so many beer cans." As the beer cans were loaded into the truck, neighbors gathered to watch and appreciate what the youngsters were doing. "It's a good hobby for the kids." "It's important. There are a lot of people who drink around here, and the cans are just thrown down, so it's a help to the neighborhood and the person who picks them up. They say you can't make much money at it, but it doesn't cost you to pick them up, they're free."

After the first of four truckloads was sold for recycling, Tony, who goes to Joan Arai Middle School, struggled with the mathematics. When all the figuring was done, about 12,000 Miller, Stroh's, Old Style and other assorted empty cans of brew tipped the scales at close to 500 pounds. With figures like these no wonder David wants to keep picking and smashing "before it freezes and the cans get too cold."□

Behind the Faces

BROR JOHANSSON

He was a big strapping farm boy from Sweden. He knocked out many a man who insulted him. But he couldn't stop his company from closing and leaving him unemployed at 55.

Bror Johansson, at age 19, came to the United States in 1926 from his native Sweden. He lives on North Clifton Street in a home purchased shortly after he was married in 1940 for $2,900. The yard, decorated with many animals, birds and flowers is well known to the crowds walking past on their way to Wrigley Field. At 72, Mr. Johansson likes to write poetry and says his favorite sports are swimming, jogging and bike riding.

After the First World War, a deep prolonged depression settled over Sweden. Young people couldn't find any work. I was one of them. Emigrate to the U.S.A. was the solution. One of my brothers was already there and some relatives. The United States was enjoying a building boom in 1926. Most Swedes there were doing very well.

Unfortunately, I was due for the draft at 19 years old. I wrote to the Swedish king – his permission was required before I could leave the country. My petition was denied. Again I petitioned the king, "Your consent not required to leave to Canada which I will do if you do not grant my first request." That challenged the king. The king deigned to consent. I had challenged his majesty and I was the winner.

On the boat we had a life of luxury but were dominated by some Swedish Americans who were returning to the U.S.A. or Canada. A big Canadian lumberjack was arrogant and abusive beyond my toleration. "I can break down anybody's arm," he said. I challenged him, "You must have on a pair of brown pants." He said, "I will not stand for your stupid insult." He lost. From then on he was a loner.

Chicago was my destination, I came to relatives. My brother disowned me. He belonged to the aristocratic carpenters union. I had no trade. There were only two million organized workers in the U.S.A. in 1926.

I learned about the brutal arrogance and sadism perpetrated on newcomers in the United States. We were linguistically handicapped, though not I so much, I had high school English. To cause us physical and psychic injury was a favored sport of many natives and those who by now were naturalized citizens. We, as Oscar Hamlin says, faced total calamity and our only security was ignorance.

Behind the Faces

continued

Two hundred Negroes were lynched in 1926 in the United States. About 75 Ku Klux Klan marched into the church where my uncle had taken me on the northside of Chicago. It was the first and last time I visited that church. With my fiance I visited another northside church. The minister stopped his sermon to ask an entering colored man why he didn't attend his own church. This church is for White people, he added. The man left and so did I, for good.

Construction work as a laborer was not for me. Physical exhaustion and unending psychic abuse, even from my brother, brought suicide to my mind. By a chance, I was hired by a Swedish foreman at American Colortype Company at Roscoe and Racine on the northside. "You're Swedish," he said. "I don't need a man, but tell the warehouse foreman I sent you." I was hired. Flunky in a warehouse.

The abuses continued. "Why don't you fight?" my foreman asked. "Yes then you will fire me," I said. "Hell no!" was his answer. Inside of an hour I picked up a tormentor and gave him a flying mare with such force that I landed on his chest. He was out for ten minutes.

A sub-foreman was in the habit of spitting on the floor in front of me. A forelady turned him in – he was properly chastised. Only brute force could divorce some from their brutality. I enclosed one nasty little runt in a big box. He learned psychic abuse pays poor dividends. Before the strike, I was abominably persecuted. I became desperate, gave a tormentor a flying mare. He landed in the urinal – a big trough. There I sat on him. The men named him the "skunk." He became demoralized and quit.

Finally I managed to get on the printing presses – I was hired as a promising scab. I didn't know a strike was brewing. Needless to say, I was one of the first to walk out.

Depression hit us, we lost Liberty Magazine and some catalogues – it was a miserable time. I became a salesman, a peddler. I worked at a laundry partly owned by a friend of mine – pay $1.50 a day. I worked as wringerman, fireman, engineer and security guard.

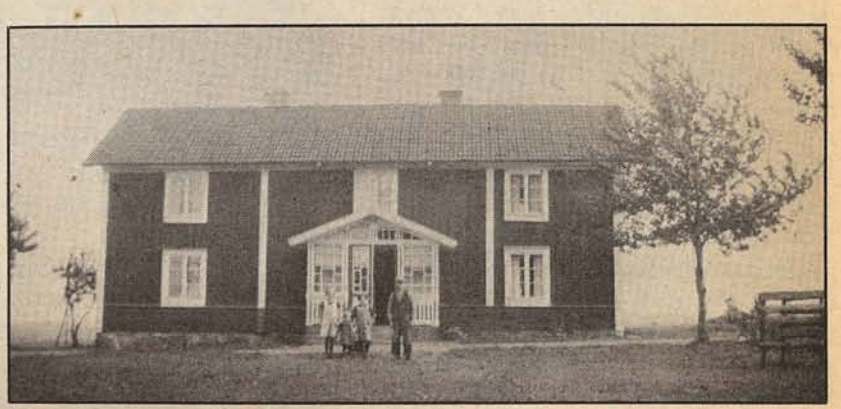
Larceny was rampant. I was made security officer and as the superintendent, things improved and larceny declined. After a while it seemed too many girls became pregnant. It was not very long before I was called in the office. "You are asinine," I was told. "The girls are stealing us blind. They have stolen stuff under their skirts." My reply; "Am I supposed to look under their skirts?" I was fired for the third time. The fourth time because my fingers were bleeding, ruined by the hot water at the laundry.

"About 75 Ku Klux Klansmen marched into a church where my uncle had taken me on the north side of Chicago."

I was also so tired. I remember I went down to Belmont Harbor. I walked like I was drunk. I lay down and I woke up 24 hours later. Bitten to hell by mosquitos.

Things improved. I worked several months a year at printing. In 1937, I took a trip to Sweden. I was lucky, several of my Swedish friends had committed suicide, three were insane. Three of my printer friends ended it all – a couple cracked.

When I returned from Sweden at 31 years old, I decided to study over here. Several years later I graduated from



The early years (left); Bror with his twin-sister, Syster and (right), his boyhood home in Sweden. In the United States Bror learned the only way to stop some from insulting him was to fight back.

Roosevelt University with a Bachelor of Science. I continued my studies at Roosevelt University, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Illinois Institute of Technology and Chicago Labor College.

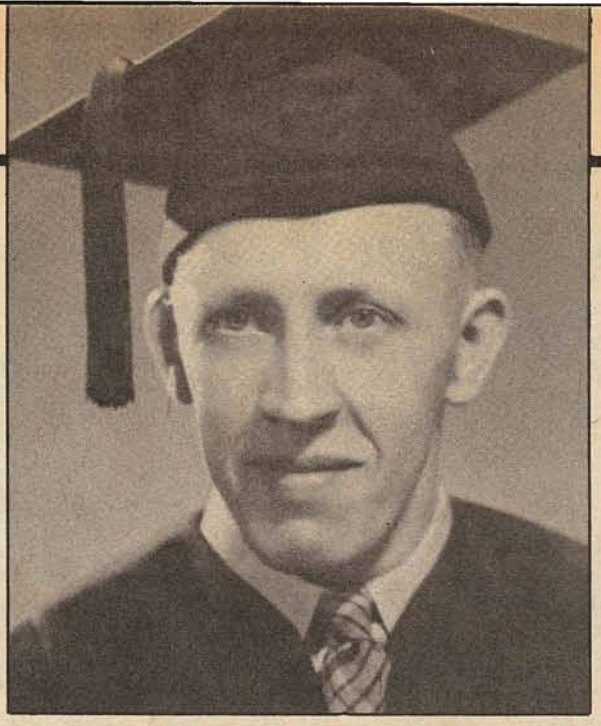
I was a member of the Franklin Union Local 4. Corruption in the union was rampant. We pulled a strike of W.F. Hall and Donnelley. I was on the picket line several times. Donnelley never gave in but W.F. Hall said we won the strike. A few weeks after, most of those who had gone out, but of course returned, were fired. Through the grapevine we found out that our officers had sold out. They found the stubs of checks in a waste paper basket over at W.F. Hall. The strike emptied our treasury, I think it cost $750,000. They had to lower the pensions because of it.

Twenty of my union members, we took Local 4 to court and after four years we won. But in the meantime, one of my friends was killed, they shot his shoulders off. And one of my friends was grabbed as he was entering a car, but as luck was, a police car passed by so they saved him. He became an official in our union but years later that psychic injury made him so scared, they had to chain him to the bed.

I lost a lot of money on account of it, because I was put on the lower paying presses. I was never officially threatened. But I felt safer when I walked down the middle of the street at night than the sidewalks.

Then came the war. I got a critical occupation deferment and an educational deferment. I made money. Times changed. Radio and TV made inroads on the printing trades and we lost several magazines. Our big wages couldn't compete with W.F. Hall and Donnelly's open shops. Clement Colortype, previously American Colortype closed – I was unemployed at age 55.

Since then I worked at Continental Bank in the mail department for a few months then I was a deputy sheriff for three years. I was also a sanitation worker for a few months.



Top left: Graduation from Roosevelt University in 1946. Top right: Bror and his wife Violet while courting. Above, the house on Clifton Street they bought in 1941 for $2,900. Right, the house as it is today. "Times have changed. Radio and T.V. made inroads on the printing trades...and I was unemployed at the age of 55."

I began teaching Swedish at the downtown YMCA at nights. A friend suggested I go to the Board of Education. I qualified and became a grammar school teacher. My first school was Benjamin Franklin School at 222 W. Evergreen. I later switched to industrial arts teacher for five years. Teaching was one of the most miserable, hopeless jobs I ever had. The ignorance of the children and their total lack of ambition is shocking. Many of the students had no more than 400 words in their vocabulary.

I will forever suffer from depression but more so from hopelessness, when I think of the inhumanities which have been perpetrated on our colored citizens – our brothers and their children.

Pilsen Fights Back — Pilsen Planning Coalition In Action

by Victoria Roja

PART ONE

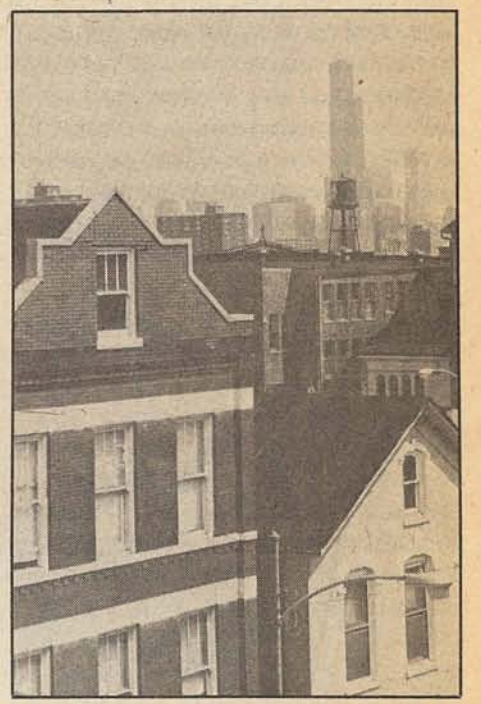
(Chicago, Ill.) The Pilsen neighborhood is rapidly getting the reputation for being one of Chicago's feisty neighborhoods. This is due to the determination of Pilsen's residents and organizations to fight back when they feel threatened by city hall and the big business powers — when they feel that they have not been included in planning for the community they work and live in.

Pilsen is a predominantly Mexican community located on Chicago's near west side. It was mainly an Eastern European community until about 15 years ago when the area began to receive thousands of new Mexican residents and the Eastern European settlers left to pursue greener pastures in the suburbs. There had been Mexicans in Pilsen as far back as 1900, but during the sixties Pilsen's Mexican population grew rapidly. U.S. companies investing in Mexican agriculture had driven thousands of "campesino" families off the land during the 40's and 50's. These same companies also took over the industry in the cities, where they set up factories and plants with the most modern machinery that doesn't use much labor. There were no jobs in the cities and so hundreds of thousands, millions of Mexicans came across the border to look for work in the U.S.

Thousands of Mexicans came to Pilsen to work, settle and struggle to form a community. Pilsen has always been a neighborhood where workers settled. It was built as a workers neighborhood from the very beginning with small homes close to the factories and the railroads where the laborers worked. When European workers became prosperous they moved out and went to live where they could see a little more grass and the streets were cleaner. So Pilsen was a place where people wanted to get out of to get to a better place. And that's why it was called a port of entry; people came in and moved out.

But unlike the former settlers the Mexican people of Pilsen decided that they wanted to stay and build their community and gradually they began to buy homes and build organizations. They demanded that the agencies and churches, organizations and government offices meet their growing needs. But above all they built organizations like Casa Aztlan, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Latino Youth, Pilsen Neighbors, El Hogar del Niño and others. Even those agencies that are affiliated with state agencies and receive government funding were built from the grass roots up, with people getting together and demanding that they get the services that they need. They demanded that the services respect their culture, their language and be controlled by Mexicans.

The organizations that the people built became their defense against the policies which the government and the businesses tried to force down their throat. In 1968, when the Chicago Board of Education tried to close the TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language Program), the Pilsen Neighbors Community Council led the fight to keep the program open. They beat back the bureaucrats and began a decade long struggle to improve the schools in the community, finally achieving the building of a local high school for Mexican youth, the Benito Juarez High School, named after Mexico's first constitutional president



The Pilsen neighborhood sits on the edge of Chicago's downtown Loop. The people have fought hard with city hall and big business to make sure they have a voice in plans for the community's future.

Pilsen...the young and the old. Mexicans flocked to Pilsen in the 1960's when U.S. companies took over Mexican agriculture and drove thousands of "campesinos" off the land. Today, a strong coalition movement in Pilsen demands that the agencies and organizations built from the grass roots up continue to serve the needs of Pilsen residents.

and great national hero. Attacks against the people in the social services led to the founding of agencies like Casa Aztlan in 1969, the Benito Juarez People's Health Center (1971), and El Hogar del Nino (1973). These agencies were formed by people taking to the streets, going to downtown funding agencies and demanding what they deserved: decent services. They were successful in creating community-controlled agencies which serve the community. When the Immigration and Naturalization police gunned down a Mexican in 1973 in the process of trying to deport him, the people got together and fought back. They took care of the brother and made sure that he got back safely to Mexico, to his family. In the process they created another organization, CASA (1974) and the Coalition in the Defense of the Immigrant Worker (1975). Slowly the community took shape and people showed a willingness to work together and build together, even when there were differences.

Fighting The Masterplan

In 1973 Mayor Daley and the big business bloc downtown announced to the world that they were going to restore the city of Chicago to "health" by renovating the center of the city. They were going to clean up the river, tear down all the dilapidated buildings, fix the parks, build new schools and repair the streets. All this to attract middle class White people back into the city from the suburbs. They were not going to do this for the benefit of the people who lived there, the Blacks, Latinos, elderly and other poor people. They were causing the city's illness and they had to be removed so that the downtown area could be saved! Pilsen was included in this plan, the infamous Plan 21. Pilsen's organizations responded by organizing a protest and demanding that Pilsen be included in the planning for itself. The city administration and the businessmen were forced to agree to the principle of citizen's participation in the planning. Pilsen then began to develop its own plan.

Everything that had been built by the people was in danger of being wiped out by the Plan 21, part of Chicago's master plan. If Pilsen was going to survive, the housing had to be rehabilitated to keep low and moderate income people from leaving the community. But the organizations had to face the hard facts that the only sources of capital to do this was the government; city, state and local, and the banks. But city government and the banks wanted them out of the neighborhood so they could "reinvest" and make a lot of money from the middle class that they wanted to bring in. They wanted them out because they also were getting together and becoming a political threat. They want the Mexican and other poor people out because they can't provide them with enough jobs and they know that Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Blacks and other poor people are not going to sit back and take it. The only thing that honest community people could do was to stand up and fight back.

Armed with the community plan, Pilsen began to demand the city government use the money that it received from the federal government for the benefit of the people's plans and not for the benefit of the developer's plans. Joining with other organizations across the city in a Coalition to Stop the Plan 21, Pilsen supported a suit against the city administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The suit accused them of violating federal guidlines on citizen participation in the development of Chicago's overall economic development plan (OEDP), and of conspiring to deceive the people. The suit is still in the courts: the city and the Department of Commerce are guilty and they want to settle out of court so the truth won't be found out.

Continued next month.

A Report From The Committee of Concerned Families and Friends Of Prisoners

Pontiac Brothers Closer to Trial

(Chicago, Illinois) The Death Penalty is once again on the rise. In Illinois, 31 Black and Latino men (known as the Pontiac Brothers) are caught in its grip. Seventeen of these men (all Black) are charged with the deaths of 3 prison guards following the rebellion at Pontiac Correctional Center last July. These men face death in the electric chair! The remaining 14 Pontiac Brothers are charged with armed violence, mob action, burglary, and other correctional code violations. They face additional years in prison and for many, possible life imprisonment.

What happened on July 22, 1978 at Pontiac? Why did the men rebel? Governor Thompson and Dept. of Corrections Director Gayle Franzen would have us believe it was a "riot" brought on by "animals" in an overcrowded situation; that there was a shortage of guards to handle the situation. Other news media reporters and personnel would have us believe it was because of the very hot temperatures in the cell houses that day. Still others continue to put forth the stories about "gang" intimidation, control and murder. All such publicity has been gathered by the state to support its case against the Pontiac Brothers.

Prisoners rebelled at Pontiac on July 22, 1978 against the filthy living conditions, cold, insect-infested food, guard brutality and inadequate medical treatment.

Prisoners rebelled at Pontiac Correctional Center on July 22, 1978. These men imprisoned at Pontiac rebelled against the filthy, unsanitary living conditions they were forced to live in. They rebelled against the overcrowdedness and long hours spent cramped in small cells designed for one man that now housed two. They rebelled against the cold, insect-infested food forced upon them, against guard brutality and inadequate, irregular medical treatment. The men imprisoned at Pontiac rebelled against non-functional academic and vocational programs. They refused to be "warehoused" as "property" of the state; and "caged" and treated as "animals" in the human zoo called Pontiac.

Immediately following the rebellion, Warden Thaddeus Pickney placed the prison on deadlock, discontinuing all

Seventeen Black inmates known as the Pontiac Brothers face the death penalty on charges that they killed three prison guards at Pontiac Correctional Center following a major prison rebellion there on July 22, 1978. Their trial is scheduled to begin this month in Chicago.

family visits and phone calls to prisoners. Attorneys were not allowed access to their clients inside Pontiac. Prisoners were locked in their cells all day, not allowed showers, recreation, or even necessary medical care. Prisoners' personal property was taken away as Dept. of Corrections officials lied about sending it home to relatives.

While Illinois violated prisoners' rights to have access to their attorneys, investigators of the Illinois Dept. of Law Enforcement were allowed inside. Thus began eight months of intimidating interrogations, bribery, and harassment as IDLE investigators manufactured evidence needed in their case to frame-up prisoners to cover up the real causes for the rebellion.

During the time that the IDLE investigations were going on, Pontiac Prison Warden Pickney was fired, by then Dept. of Corrections Director, Charles Rowe. This was shortly after Pickney's testimony in the Deadlock suit filed by the prisoners. Later, Charles Rowe resigned. Warden Harvey took over at Pontiac with Gayle Franzen as the new director of the Dept. of Corrections.

The result of the IDLE investigation at Pontiac, was the transfer in October 1978, of 29 prisoners hand-picked by the Dept. of Corrections, from Pontiac to Stateville, where they were placed in segregation. Another 25 prisoners remained in segregation in Pontiac. Of this group of 54, 31 were finally indicted when the verdict of the Grand Jury was handed down March 5, 1979. Seventeen men were each charged with *15* counts of murder and 14 with various other lesser offenses.

Following is an update since the indictments:

Pontiac prisoners rebelled last July against inhuman conditions at the prison including overcrowding in the cells. The men refused to be "warehoused" as "property" of the state and "caged" and treated as "animals" in the human zoo called Pontiac.

MARCH 1979

Arraignments began at Livingston county (in Pontiac) for the 31 indicted. All entered pleas of "not guilty" and several acted as their own attorneys—pro se.

Concerned Families & Friends Of Prisoners (CFFP)—the relatives and friends of the Pontiac inmates—held a press conference charging that the indictments were unfair and that the State of Illinois was attempting to legally lynch the Pontiac Brothers.

Pontiac Brothers beaten and harassed by prison guards while handcuffed.

Lawyers for the Pontiac Brothers filed substitution of judge motion, change of venue motion and appropriation of funds motion in Livingston County. They asked that the racist Judge Caisley remove himself as presiding judge over the Pontiac case, that the trial be moved to Cook County which has a large Black population from which to draw jurors, is the home of many of the Pontiac Brothers and is more convenient for lawyers involved in the case. They asked that the judge decide on how money will be allocated to defense attorneys.

Lawyers filed discovery motions asking that the state turn over to them all written evidence it has against their client.

APRIL 1979

Arraignments of the Pontiac 14.

MAY 1979

Change of venue motion heard by Judge Caisley as lawyers argued that

Cook County is the only place in which the Pontiac Brothers can get a 'fair' trial.

Judge Caisley successfully removed from the case on substitution of judge motion.

JUNE 1979

Pre-trial motions, change of venue and substitution of judge motions filed for the Pontiac 14. Continuances of trial start-up dates for the Pontiac 14 also requested. (The indictments of the (14) Pontiac Brothers are divided up into 8 separate indictments, before 5 different judges, and spread out over 3 different counties.)

Change of venue to Cook County (Chicago) granted.

First court date of Pontiac Brothers in Chicago held at the Cook County building at 26th and California.

Defense lawyers argued appointment of counsel motions, as the lawyers of the Pontiac Brother's choice became an issue with the newly appointed Judge Miller.

Some of the prisoners chose out-of-town lawyers who are knowledgeable about the political ramifications of this case, and themselves are experienced in death penalty cases. Presiding Judge Miller has refused to appoint these lawyers or to pay them.

Family members and friends attending court on the first date in Cook County were beaten and harassed by armed sheriff deputies in the courtroom.

JULY 1979

Pre-trial motions continued.

10,000 pages of discovery from the State are received by the defense lawyers. Defense lawyers and investigators begin sifting through the 'manufactured testimonies.'

AUGUST 1979

Grand Jury reports were released. Defense lawyers and investigators continued reading and requesting discovery materials; some are faced with unrealistic trial dates set for early September.

Pontiac 17 transferred from Stateville to Cook County Jail.

Pre-trial motions and court hearing continued in Chicago in the case of the Pontiac 17 and in the 3 different counties for the Pontiac 14.

Attorneys for the Pontiac Brothers explained that defense efforts have been hampered by the Dept. of Corrections' delay to turn over discovery material to *all* defense lawyers. The State of Illinois has further hampered defense efforts since it unevenly allocates or does not allocate any funds to the appointed counsels for the Pontiac Brothers; while at the same time treating lawyers for the state more favorably. While prosecuting attorneys are paid $60 and $70 per hour, defense attorneys have only been allocated $20 and $35.

Gov. Thompson didn't stop with reinstating the death penalty. His repressive class X legislation became law in 1978. Class X is the "bed partner" of the death penalty.

In December 1978, the State of Illinois allocated $450,000 to the defense of the Pontiac Brothers. This was done not out of the goodness of its heart, but in a manner of equal protection under the law for the Pontiac Brothers, because the State had allocated the same amount to prosecute the Pontiac Brothers.

SEPTEMBER 1979

Defense attorneys continue requesting additional discovery materials.

Lawyers for the Pontiac 14 continue to be sought.

The prison population of Illinois is 10,700. Fifty-eight percent are Black people, primarily young Black men, though Black people only make up 13 percent of Illinois' total population.

Observers close to the case blame Governor James Thompson for what they consider extreme overkill in the prosecution. It was Governor Thompson that revived the death penalty in this state in June 1977. Thompson didn't stop with reinstating the death penalty. In February 1978, his repressive Class 'X' legislation became law.

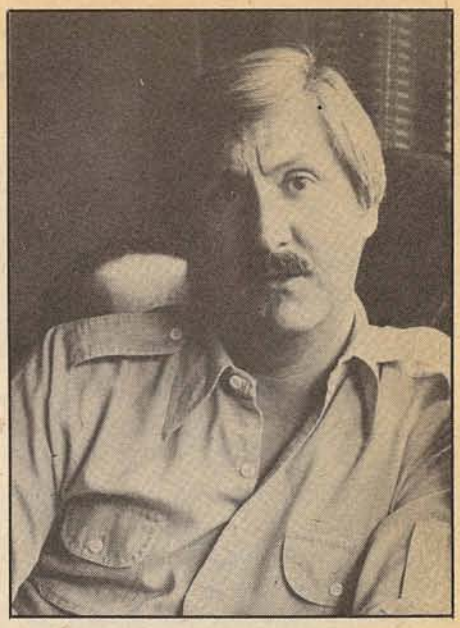
Spokespersons for the CFFP are emphatic in their plea for public support.

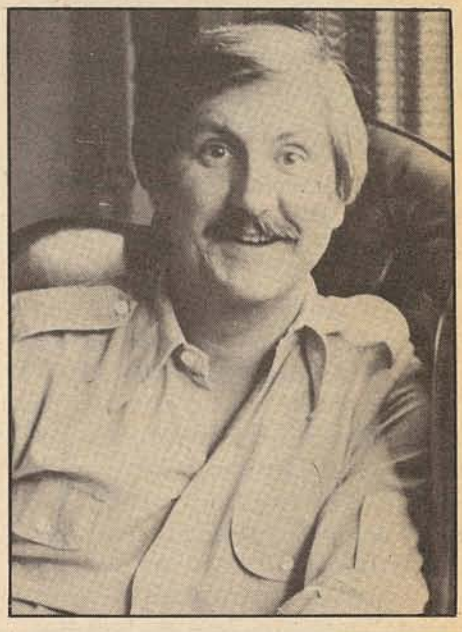
"We cannot afford to let Governor Thompson, DOC Director Gayle Franzen, the Dept. of Corrections or the State of Illinois have their way in the Pontiac case. Nor can we afford to view the Pontiac situation as an isolated incident in our struggle for liberation. Parallel Pontiac to the Scottsboro Boys and the struggles of our ancestors against slavery and economic exploitation.

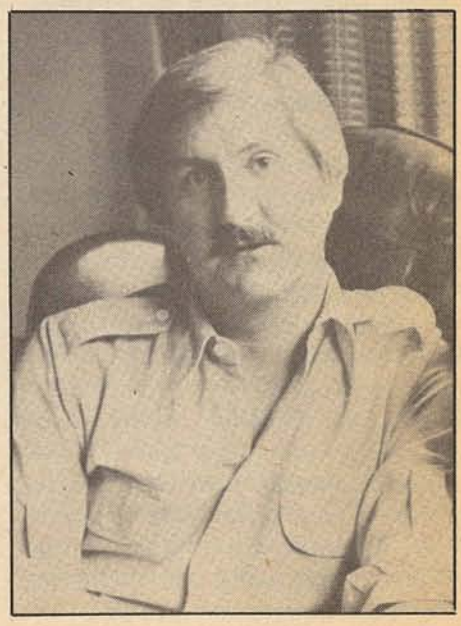
"The Black and Latino communities must come together to agitate, educate and organize to put the State on trial in defense of the Pontiac 31. Victory can only be ours if you 'Dare to struggle' with us, we know we will win!"□

For more information about participating in the defense work and organizing in the Black community, contact Concerned Families & Friends of Prisoners — 921-6534; organizing in the White communities, contact — Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition — 734-8276 or 427-4064.

Fighting In The "Machine's Front Yard"







If Bridgeport is the Regular Democratic Organization's backyard, the northwest side is certainly the front yard. Twice elected as state representative and second top vote-getter in this year's aldermanic elections, MIKE HOLEWINSKI has waged a feisty battle with the "machine" since 1971.

Mike Holewinski is a lifelong resident of Chicago's northwest side. While driving to work one day in 1971, he heard on the radio that petitions were being taken to run for alderman. Within a few days Mike had started a political career that put him in the state legislature twice and brought him city-wide recognition as an independent with strong neighborhood support in his unsuccessful race for alderman in the 45th ward earlier this year.

Although he lost his first race for alderman in 1971 when he ran in the 35th

"A sales tax increase is really a mistake. People who are forced to spend the majority of their earnings for survival are penalized the most."

ward, Mike Holewinski stayed in touch with 20 people who were interested in politics and neighborhood affairs. He worked on community issues like the Crosstown expressway and worked in Walker's campaign for governor.

In 1974, Mike Holewinski was elected state representative in the 17th district. Heavyweight Victor DeGrazia, Governor Walker's right-hand man was sent to persuade Holewinski not to run, but to no avail. Mike's strong contact with community and neighborhood groups along with his persistent work on housing and anti-redlining legislation helped to win him re-election to a second term in 1976.

The state legislative race in 1978 turned out to be a virtual slaughter for independents like Holewinski, Ellis Levin and Jim Houlihan. They were knocked out of office.

Mike Holewinski ran for alderman in the 45th ward this year. Despite strong media endorsements and broad community support, he was defeated in a run-off election April 3. He polled over 11,000 votes, the second highest number of votes any aldermanic candidate received in Chicago. His opponent resorted to a dirty campaign to beat Holewinski. Mike's votes while state representative on controversial issues like abortion and the death penalty were blown out of proportion and precinct captains went door-to-door saying Holewinski was a "queer."

Since his defeat, Holewinski has returned to his private law practice. KEEP STRONG talked with Holewinski at his home near Cicero and Irving Park where he lives with his wife.

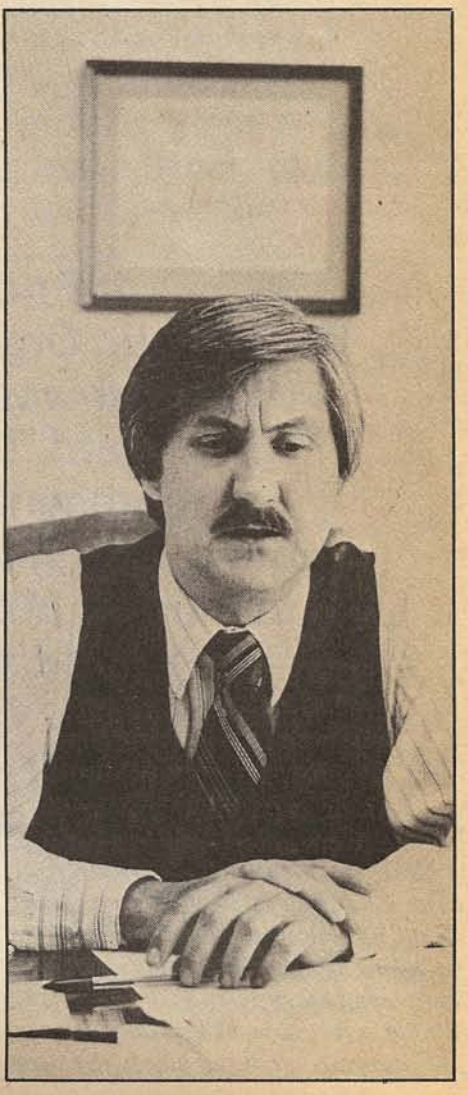
KEEP STRONG: How do you evaluate the Byrne administration?

HOLEWINSKI: I honestly don't know at this point. She's been in office four months. Most of everything she's done is fire people and little else. Taking over a system of a group of people that has been entrenched in city government for decades, just weeding them out without creating chaos is a big task.

I think the real challenge for Byrne is going to be after weeding out at least really bad people, whether she will replace them with quality people from the outside and what programs her administration comes up with. It's one thing to fire people, the public likes to see it, the press likes to see it, they know all that waste is there. But there will come a time – a year from now – when that phase will be done and they'll be saying 'what about programs for the city?'

KEEP STRONG: What do you think about the RTA transit package passed by the state legislature?

HOLEWINSKI: It's really not a good package for the city of Chicago. It surprised me that they went along with it. Here's what I see is the problem. I think a sales tax increase is really a mistake and I think the public has not yet caught onto the fact that they're getting a 20 percent increase in sales taxes. That is big money – every dollar you spend is taxed. Over the course of the year, that's going to mean a tremendous amount of money to most people and it's going to really hurt particularly if that other bill is not overridden, which is the bill that removes the sales tax on food and medicine and there is considerable speculation that that is part of this deal that is going to go down the tubes. Now if that's the fact, that hurts those people who are forced to spend the majority of their earnings for survival, for necessities are really being penalized the most. Secondly, I think it's bad for Chicago business es-



"You need to guarantee that Chicago's communties contain a good mixture...all kinds of people and all age groups."

Stable neighborhoods on Chicago's northwest side face decay because few banks make money or loans easily available for home improvements.

pecially, and it's going to vary if you live in the collar part of Cook County, you will undoubtedly drive to the next city to make your purchase, if you're going to save a minimum of one percent, especially if you're buying something big such as a refrigerator, or whatever, because then, you're talking about 30 bucks, 40 bucks, 100 bucks. It's certainly worth your while to drive down the tollway and spend your money. There is no question in my mind that it is going to have an impact on Chicago business.

The plan itself also protects the road fund. In previous years, money got poured into the road fund from the gasoline sales tax, license plate sales and things like that. Legislatures would syphon it off to state police, public health programs and contractors. There shouldn't be this special priority given to the roads; they should compete with every other state program. The new legislation restricts syphoning off money from the road fund, so that the road fund money is ultimately used for the roads. But some programs are going to suffer. Take for example the state emergency medical system. These ambulance systems that are statewide include training programs which are not under the Department of Health. Under the new law, they won't be paid for out of tax funds. Other agencies like the state police who have a major traffic function won't be eligible for money from the tax funds and that's ridiculous. Emergency medical transportation, state police – these are all traffic and highway functions. Now the money will have to come from general reserves which restricts the funds available for education, mental health and social services. It was not a good plan.

KEEP STRONG: The issue of the neighborhoods has become prominent in city politics. What should be included in a program for neighborhoods?

HOLEWINSKI: Some neighborhoods really need an injection of available capital, not only for home financing, but home improvements. Money is tightest in these neighborhoods and that's where they need help the most. There is nothing available from the local banks, or savings and loans for home financing. There is no real housing rehab industry.

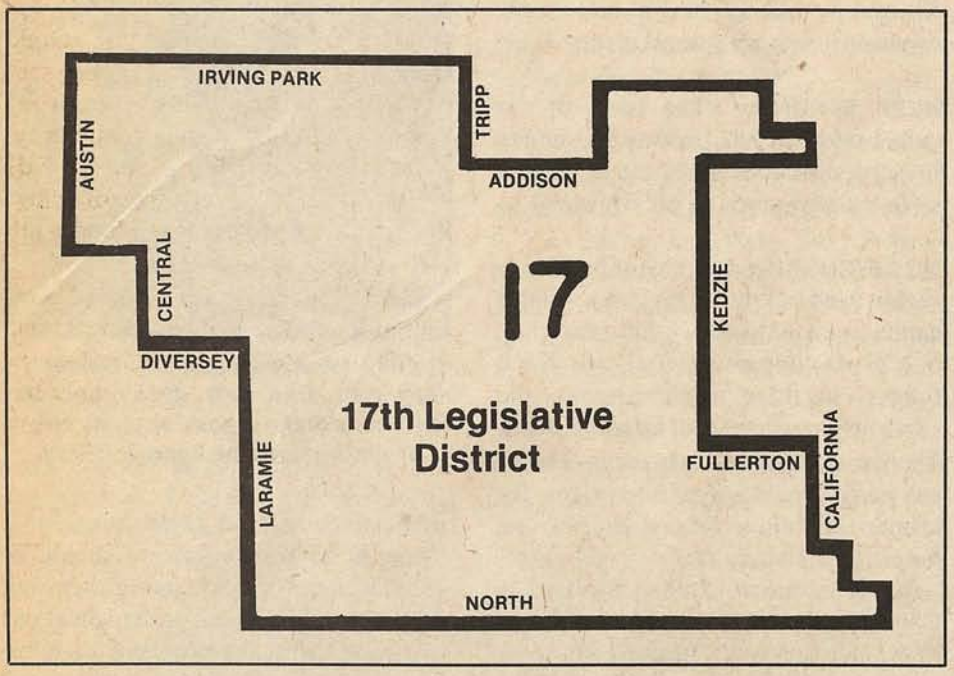
If I were mayor of an aging city like Chicago, one thing I'd do is set up a network to promote housing improvement and housing rehab. Everything does not have to look like Lincoln Park, but if your 70 year old house has a sagging ceiling there ought to be a good clearinghouse where you could go for reliable information on what to do, how much it will cost to fix it up.

If you want to do rehab and you have an architect and the plans, but are not in the upper-income bracket, you have a difficult time figuring out where to go. You look in the yellow pages under plumbers and you'd find hundreds of them and not know what to do. From first-hand experience I know how confusing it is.

In this area, what you find by and large, is an older constituency, an older group of people who bought these homes after the War and now own them. Their kids have grown up and moved away, and they are approaching their 60's. Those people find it more difficult to stay in these bungalows. There is no real reason we should be forcing them out, by taxing them out of it. There's also got to be some way of dealing with the problems of housing decay. People who are isolated and no longer have families are no longer able to care for their buildings and physically incapable of doing it. You go through a block in this area and find manicured lawn after manicured lawn and well-painted houses and in the middle of the block there is a house that is run-down. The only reason for the neglect is basically the age of the people who are there and their physical and economic limitations. Also you've got to deal with the special groups, the elderly, the ill and the physically handicapped. You need to guarantee that Chicago's communities contain a good mixture, a cross-section of all kinds of people and all age groups.

I think you have to make priorities by community. Some communities are in far more desperate need than others and it's got to go beyond who

"I think the best thing that could happen is if some competition developed in the Democratic Party. There should be some dialogue."



has the most political clout to get city services and funds. It's got to get to the point where you recognize that there is this "trickle effect,"that the city's generally decaying from the inside out because that is how they've aged. There has to be a plan for heading off that deterioration and discouraging that rapid change. I think everybody can see how a community ages. When there is not a sufficient amount of capital going into it – the neighborhood becomes available to lower-income people. But no healthy mix is maintained. It becomes totally poor then, and it begins to show signs of deterioration and abandonment, because the building owners still own it but don't live there. There is less pride in the community and the people keep on moving out and the pressure builds.

The city's also got to do something about crime. I'm no cop and I don't know a lot about law enforcement, but in some of these communities the major issue is crime. People don't feel safe in their neighborhoods. I don't know off-hand what can be done about that.

KEEP STRONG: What is the future of the Democratic Party in Chicago?

HOLEWINSKI: The Democratic Party has not been made up of the working people – labor, I mean. It's been "city hall" working people. The organization has really not been receptive to what Democrats want.

Take a look at the Democratic representatives on the northwest side of Chicago and you'll find that they are basically a conservative list. They are more sympathetic to the business interests than to labor. I'm not saying you have to be in somebody's pocket, but if you identify yourself as a Democrat and you say that you support the Democratic Party platform which includes all these grandiose social ideas, don't turn your back on it in the state legislature.

I think the best thing that could happen is if some competition developed in the Democratic Party. There should be some dialogue. "Why are you going down to Springfield and voting against an increase in the minimum wage? You're a Democratic representative!" The "machine" puts you in a safe seat. "Why are you voting against programs for other working people, against bilingual programs when you represent a Latino community?" That happens all the time. It's unbelieveable. "Why do you vote against basic public health programs?" "Why do you vote for restrictions on certain funds for education?"

It happens because you're not representing the constituency that lives there. I suppose that I got a lot of heat for being more progressive than most people in the community – more liberal. I'm sure I am. I was elected twice as a state legislator. While people may have viewed me as peculiar because of my votes on purely liberal-conservative issues like the death penalty, they figured I was the only guy working on any programs, coming to their meetings and trying to work on things. So maybe they'd overlook some of those "idiosyncracies" like being against the death penalty. But I don't think people saw that as being one of their major concerns.

If people feel somebody is providing

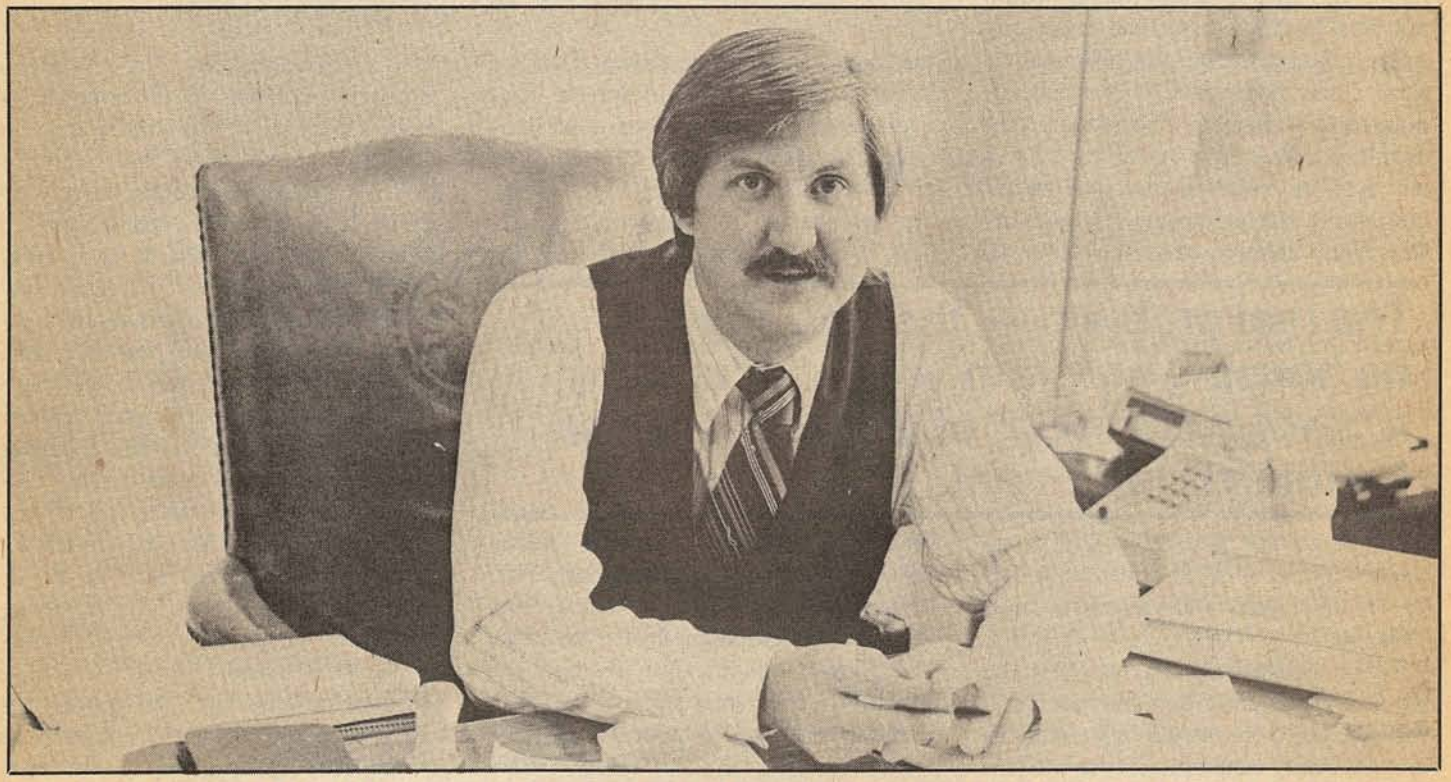
"The Democratic Organization thinks that just because you live on the northwest side you've got to be a redneck and hate everybody who's not like yourself."

a service they'll go with them. There really is no difference between the two political parties. In an area like this all these politicians are identical. I've watched the legislators from districts around here vote in the state legislature. They'd watch each other to make sure they voted the same way, so there would be no controversy back in the district about "you voted this way," or "you voted that way." So why have cumulative voting and multiple member districts when the idea is to have a variety of views presented?

I think the Democratic Organization reads things wrong. They think that just because you live on the northwest side of Chicago, you've got to be a redneck and hate everybody who is not like yourself. That view is reflected in my last campaign. Their major issues were race, homosexuality, abortion and the death penalty. None of these things really have to do with the position of alderman. But those were the signals.

Anyone who is sympathetic to the plight of minorities is going to be frowned upon. Therefore, they could say how he's for integration. They sent out letters like that. "Holewinski is for forced integration of our community. He's for homosexuals teaching our kids in schools," and all that type of thing. Well there is a group of people who are very sensitive to that.

I had a reputation for being a liberal legislator and still got a lot of votes out of this area. I never hid my position on the issues. I think what that should tell the Democratic Organization is, "Hey, not everybody out here is alike."□



Mike Holewinski took "a lot of heat" for his liberal position on issues like race, the death penalty, abortion, and homosexuality and was beaten in the April 3 run-off for alderman in the 45th ward by a desperate opponent. "Anyone who is sympathetic to the plight of minorities is going to be frowned upon," says Holewinski. "But I never hid my position on the issues."

Tenants Charge Byrne Housing Plan Keeps Ties With Banks And Real Estate

(Chicago, Ill.) On August 22, more than 100 senior citizens – marched on city hall, demanding to see Mayor Byrne. Like thousands of other Chicago tenants, these people were facing staggering rent increases of 20 to 30 to 50 percent. Also, like most renters, these people had small incomes to begin with, and they were finding it increasingly difficult to pay their soaring food, health, and utility bills, even without exorbitant rent increases. In addition, most of these people complained of drastic cutbacks in building services and maintenance, and many said they were being put on month-to-month leases which would enable their landlords to raise their rents at any time.

Chicago senior citizens face stiff rent increases. Mayor Byrne has refused to support their demands for a rent freeze and told the elderly that they should move to subsidized housing in cheaper neighborhoods.

When stopped outside the mayor's office and told that the mayor would not be able to see them that day, many of the marchers could not believe their ears. Their hope gave way to disappointment and anger. They soon began chanting, "We have more time than money," and resolved that they would not leave without seeing the mayor. The group chanted and sang to television cameramen and radio and newspaper reoprters for an hour and a half before the mayor finally agreed to meet with them.

The real problem – that the city has no housing program – is obscured by a "showy clean-up" of a scandal-ridden Building Department.

In the meeting, the mayor refused to support the tenants' demands for an emergency rent freeze and rent rollbacks and gave only vague support to the tenants' proposal for a "fair rent commission" to control excessive rent increases. Several times, the mayor tried to shift the focus of the meeting away from the larger problem of widespread rent overcharging to the problems of individual tenants. She asked a group of senior citizens from the Rogers Park area whether or not they would be willing to solve their rent problem by moving to subsidized senior citizen housing in a less expensive neighborhood. Could this be the same Jane Byrne who campaigned on the theme "Neighborhoods First"? In the end, the tenants left the meeting without any commitments from Mayor Byrne.

It took exactly one week for Mayor Byrne to react publicly to the issues that this march had raised. In a televised press conference, she was asked what had happened to the condo conversion regulation ordinances she had proposed more than two months earlier. Condo conversions, largely responsible for the severe rental shortage that was allowing landlords to get away with unreasonable rent increases, had been a major issue in the mayoral campaign. The mayor had promised adequate condo controls during the campaign, and, two months later, she introduced ordinances for much weaker controls after being pressured by citizens to act on her promises. Since then, she has not pushed for city council action on any controls at all. The mayor responded to the question by saying that condo regulations were "not now on the front burner" – as if Chicagoans needed to be told. She quickly diverted attention from the condo issue by announcing that she would soon propose an ordinance for a "fair rent commission" which would set guidelines for fair rent increases and have

the legal authority to roll back unjustified rent increases.

One day later, however, the "fair rent commission" plans were forgotten and replaced by a much weaker idea: the appointment of a "rent ombudsman" who would try to protect tenants using only the mayor's vague threat that the "few gouging landlords" would be "strong-armed." Thus, the mayor appeared to be confronting the problem of rent over-charging with a dramatic solution, without interfering with the real estate interests. Byrne's recently-announced departmental changes relating to housing and neighborhood development clearly shows how she preserves the cozy relationship between city hall and Chicago's banks and realtors.

Chicago will continue to be a place where the banks and the real estate industry are in charge of neighborhood development.

The mayor's proposed realignment of the Building Department and "other city housing programs" into a new Department of Housing and an Inspectional Services Department illustrates just such a dramatic solution to a redefined problem. The real problem – that the city has no housing program that serves, and is responsive to, ordinary citizens – is obscured by a showy "clean-up" of a scandal-ridden Building Department. But even the so-called clean-up is suspect when the old Building Department Commissioner, Joseph Fitzgerald, is named to head the new Housing Department, and the former head of the Chicago Police spy unit, William Dugan, is named to head the Inspectional Services Department.

Many citizens believe that the role given to the mayor's proposed Department of Neighborhoods will be the most important indicator of the new administration's neighborhood development policy. The mayor has promised that this department will be a true advocate of citizens and community organizations trying to realize their own plans for development of their neighborhoods. Since such a department could certainly interfere with the financial and real estate interests that now manipulate the city's development, many people think that the Department of Neighborhoods will actually be nothing more than the city's public relations department for the neighborhoods. Such concerns have recently been heightened by Mayor Byrne's appointment of Harry Sikorski, a personal friend of the mayor and her husband who has served as PR man for real estate developer Harry Chaddick for the past ten years, to supervise the transition of the mayor's Department of Inquiry and Information into the Department of Neighborhoods.

All indications are that Chicago, under the Byrne administration, will continue to be a place where the banks and the real estate industry are in charge of neighborhood development, and such things as development of casinos for the benefit of big campaign donors like the Hilton Corporation, will receive a high priority while development of the neighborhoods by and for the people who live in them will be relegated to the back burner. □

by Ralph Scott

The City-Wide Coalition for Affordable Housing calls for action on Chicago's emergency housing shortage at press conference last month.

Ralph Scott belongs to the Hyde Park Tenants Union.

Action Deferred On Gay Rights Bill

(Chicago, Illinois) Action on a proposed gay rights bill was deferred by the Chicago city council last month. A motion to "defer and publish" was made by Alderman Clifford Kelley, (20th ward) chief sponsor of the bill and Alderman John Aiello (36). This means that the bill will come before the council again this session, perhaps as soon as September 26.

The action follows a week of city-wide debate on the measures. The bill, originally introduced by Kelley in 1973, would protect the rights of gay people in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations (such as restaurants and movies). In August the Human Rights Committee of the city council approved the bill and recommended its passage by the full council. It then seemed that the bill might pass, especially since it had been endorsed by Mayor Jane Byrne.

However, right-wing Christian fundamentalists learned of the measure and began to mount a campaign against it. On Sunday, September 9 a full page ad paid for by a group called the Plymouth Foundation appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune. The ad read, "How do you feel about homosexuals in Chicago?". It proceeded to ask whether gay people should be teachers and urged people to

Wadi Ariba

Members of the Illinois Gay Rights Task Force at a recent press conference. Ald. Clifford Kelley (second from left), sponsored the gay rights ordinance which was deferred by the city council last month.

write to the mayor and Alderman Edward Vrdolyak about the bill.

In a telephone interview with *KEEP STRONG*, Alderman Clifford Kelley responded to those who charge that homosexuality is a moral issue. "We see it as a civil rights issue. Our opponents are overlooking the fact that we are not condoning a lifestyle. These people are being discriminated against openly."

Commenting on the Plymouth Foundation ad, Alderman Kelley points out that the Reverend Tony Ahlstrom, self-proclaimed chaplain of the city council and the official registered agent and executive director of the foundation, is currently under investigation by the attorney general's office. According to the group's articles of incorporation, the group is prohibited from doing anything to influence legislation. Ald. Kelley also urges the public to take note that not a single one of the 12 members of the board live in the city and 4 reside out of the state of Illinois altogether!

"We see it as a civil rights issue. These people are being discriminated against openly."

In the days between the ad and the city council's consideration of the bill, several aldermen who had been expected to vote for the bill got cold feet. Thus, the motion to defer action was a holding measure on the part of the gay rights supporters. Alderman Robert Shaw along with Alderman Eloise Barden and Alderman George Hagopian held a press conference giving their support to a right-wing proposal for a city-wide referendum on gay rights. Shaw introduced a measure to the council calling for such a referendum.

The Illinois Gay Rights Task Force is now planning its strategy for passage of the bill. These plans include a petition drive across the city to garner support for the bill. Members of the gay community are concerned about the impact of the right's attack. It is similar to attacks by Anita Bryant and her cronies in recent years. Such attacks have played on people's fears and misconceptions of homosexuality. In doing this they have been able to defeat civil rights measures in a number of cities. They have also succeeded in the process, in gaining support for other right-wing measures and this is weakening the rights of all people.

By Christine Riddiough, a member of Blazing Star.

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Library Seeks Arrests Of Delinquent Borrowers

(Chicago, Ill.) If you've been holding overdue books from the Chicago Public Library for the last 4 years—beware. A new city law passed this August may result in a warrant for your arrest.

Up until recently if you were prosecuted by a judge for overdue books, the maximum fine was $10. But the new city ordinance increases penalties for overdue library materials to $50-$100. If the city decides to prosecute you and the judge finds you guilty you may have to pay up to $500!

Every branch library has been ordered to prepare a list of all delinquent borrowers and a list of the overdue materials they hold. Once the information is forwarded to the central library, officials there will decide on an individual basis which cases to prosecute. By next year the library will complete installation of a computer system which will be able to identify a delinquent borrower anywhere in the city. If you have been hopping from branch to branch because of overdue books and unpaid fines, "there won't be any way to escape" next year said one library official.

No public hearing was ever held on the proposed ordinance which passed the city council August 10.

Since mid-August the library has sent out registered letters to about 100 people who hold overdue library books, records and films valued at more than $75. Two of the worst offenders are two men who have $4,367 in materials still out. One man is described as a film buff who borrowed five films from the library, worth a total of $2,167. Registered letters sent to the men and many others have come back to the library which means the people have moved. If the scofflaws can't be found, the library will use "police means" to trace them down. The library is determined to get back its property. Library officials claim $1,900,000 in materials have been lost from the central library and neighborhood branches in the last 3 years.

They believe the new ordinance will be successful. One administrator points to the case of the Penrose Public Library in Colorado. The city adopted a similar ordinance and now there is a 29 year old man spending 90 days in the county jail. He had 130 books overdue.

KEEP STRONG learned that no public hearing was ever held on the proposed ordinance which passed the city council August 10. But Alderman Burke and Alderman Axelrod's Committee on Police, Fire, Personnel and Municipal Institutions held their own private meeting on July 12 at the downtown library. Mainly committee members and library officials attended. A 130-page transcript of the meeting was made but never turned over to the Municipal Reference Library for public review.

A former coordinator of the special extension service program for the Chicago Public Library called the new city law "ridiculous." "They've talked about this for ages. It's ridiculous to think that the library can act as a police agent. The cost of tracking down these people will end up equalling the cost of the materials lost. The only reason they're doing it is because they are low on revenue. The city is just not supporting them as they need to be."□

Police Motor Pool — How High Up Does It Go?

(Chicago, Ill.) In what could turn out to be the biggest scandal in the history of the Chicago Police Department, federal officials are investigating the mismanagement of as much as $10 million in the police department's multi-million dollar motor pool and electronics maintenance department. The scandal involves theft of equipment, unnecessary purchases of squad cars, radios, unneeded car repairs and a kickback scheme with Motorola, Inc. which manufactures electronics equipment such as walkie-talkies.

In the police motor pool division investigators have uncovered a $2 million purchase of more than 300 squad cars which the department now admits were not needed. Car repairs on police vehicles which normally would have cost the city $1,200 cost the department $2,400. Acting Police Supt. Joseph DiLeonardi admitted that police vehicles were being traded in after 40,000 miles of use when they could have been driven longer. Since the scandal, DiLeonardi has ordered that all police cars be driven up to 80,000 miles before trade-in.

The big scandal in the electronics maintenance department goes back to last March when it was revealed that a possible kickback scheme existed between certain employees in the police department and Motorola. Motorola, Inc. is a major electronics manufacturing firm which has been the chief supplier of radio and communications equipment to the police department since 1961.

Investigators discovered that police department employees, claiming to act on behalf of the police department, had placed huge orders with Motorola Inc. for radios and other electronic equipment. Once they received the merchandise they often returned up to half of it for credit — possibly up to as much as $100,000. The employees would use the "credit" to purchase electronic gear for their own personal use or to sell in used car lots owned by some department employees. For example, the investigations so far have revealed that at least 50 unmarked police cars have AM-FM radios while department rules only allow the top 10 police officials to have AM-FM radios in their unmarked cars. The department has no record that these 50 radios were officially purchased by the city, and investigators believe that the kickback

The scandal involving Motorola appears to be part of a long-standing "sweetheart" deal.

Federal investigators have uncovered a $2 million purchase of more than 300 squad cars which the Chicago Police Department now admits were not needed.

scheme was kept secret because employees altered or destroyed the records. Acting Supt. DiLeonardi and James Zurawski, Deputy Supt. for administration have stated that the records in the motor pool and electronics maintenance division are so sloppy and chaotic that they cannot adequately trace purchases and credits.

The scandal involving Motorola appears to be part of a long-standing "sweetheart" deal between the city of Chicago and the electronics manufacturer which made $2.2 billion last year. Other electronics manufacturers have given up bidding on Chicago electronics contracts because Motorola always gets the bid. One suburban firm commented, "Motorola has this thing tied up like a real monopoly, in quite a nifty package. All the specs are written around them." What they mean is that the orders placed by the city and the police department are so tailor-made that only Motorola could possibly fill them exactly to a tee. Competitors also point out that the Motorola bids are somehow always just "below" the "secret" estimates of the city. The Chicago Sun-Times reviewed hundreds of contracts between the police department and Motorola and found the facts: "A 1975 police proposal for a mobile terminal system for police cars was estimated at $2.6 million. Motorola's sole bid totaled $2,598,500."

Chicago's new police chief, Joseph DiLeonardi. The mayor says he's "not involved" in the latest scandals, but DiLeonardi's brother, George, was sales manager for Motorola, Inc. which has been suspected in a kickback scheme with the Chicago Police Department for years.

Competitors also point out that the Motorola bids are somehow always just "below" the "secret" estimates of the city.

The police department is not the only city agency suspect in the scandal. Motorola has been the chief supplier of radio communications equipment to dozens of city agencies and has collected more than $11.8 million from the city since 1977 for sale of electronics equipment. But the police department was the largest single purchaser — $5 million for radios, data terminals and transmitters. Another heavy user of Motorola equipment similar to the police department is the Department of Streets and Sanitation. To make a "clean show" Mayor Byrne has asked Commissioner John Donovan to "check" his department. Donovan claims to be looking over reports from his staff but says he "has no suspicions at this time."

Although the Byrne administration denies that Acting Supt. DiLeonardi had any involvement in the scandal, it is now publicly known that George DiLeonardi, his brother was the area sales manager for Motorola since 1967. Since the investigation started last March, DiLeonardi lost his job with Motorola.

Latest developments in the police scandal involve a city employee who does not even work for the police department. Identified by investigators as "Two Check Charlie," the employee is assigned to sell used office equipment, desks and chairs for the police department. Charlie always asks for two checks — one made out to the city and one made out to himself. Obviously he pockets one.

DiLeonardi calls the scandal the "tip of the iceberg," and Mayor Byrne admits it is a "very bad scandal." Sources reveal that a very high-ranking official in the Democratic Party who remains unidentified may have been using his clout to pressure department officials to make purchases to benefit particular suppliers, like Motorola. Reports also have disclosed that major contributors to the Democratic Party have sold auto parts to the police department at inflated prices. How high up the police scandal goes will have to await the outcome of the usual round of investigations, the federal grand jury, FBI, and attorney general's office and, of course, no "investigation" in Chicago is complete without Chicago's "finest" themselves — the Chicago police department. □

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New RTA Law Cheats City Riders — Fares to Rise

(Springfield, Ill.) Since its establishment in 1974, suburban legislators have complained that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) was a vehicle to subsidize the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) at the expense of the suburbanites. The public and the news media have believed it and Chicago residents have viewed the RTA as their saviour.

But public attention on the recently-passed transportation bill in Springfield has forced a more critical look at the RTA. What we find is an agency headed by Lew Hill, former head of the Chicago Department of Development and Planning. According to a recent *Sun-Times* columnist, Hill sees lining up with the suburbs as the way to keep his job.

The RTA is subsidizing the rich outer suburbs, not the poorer city and inner suburbs. According to the RTA's own Five Year Program, the average trip on a commuter railroad receives 61.6 cents from the RTA; the average suburban bus ride 57.1 cents and the average CTA rider only 21.9 cents!

The RTA has totally failed to make Chicago transportation affordable. In Seattle only 14 percent of transportation costs come from the fare box; 25 percent in Cleveland; 41 percent in Detroit; 41.5 percent in Los Angeles; 44 percent in Washington, D.C. and 50 percent in Philadelphia. Under the RTA, consumers pay 57 percent of the total costs of the CTA.

The average trip on a commuter railroad gets 61.6¢ from the RTA while the average CTA ride gets only 21.9¢.

These may sound like dry figures, but they are the difference between paying 25 cents and 60 cents every time you get on the CTA.

The transportation package does little to lower CTA fares — in fact the CTA fares are expected to increase 10 percent. The new law increases the sales tax and eliminates the state subsidy that has funded the RTA. Now when you go to the grocery store, you will be paying for the RTA. Another setback — the new law eliminates reduced rates for students and seniors. The people will pay more in taxes so the suburbs can continue to get subsidized at our expense.

The bill has been passed and signed into law by Governor Thompson. What can be done is to fight to prevent the RTA from increasing the CTA fare, while holding suburban fares constant. We want some of the subsidy our taxes have been providing to the suburbs.

If we fail, maybe the RTA should be abolished or radically changed. It is time Chicago residents woke up to the RTA.□

by Ellis Levin

Ellis Levin is a former independent state representative and is now a practicing attorney.

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Looking Back

by Eugene Feldman

FANNIE LOU HAMER

Freedom Fighter

From the cotton fields of Mississippi she came to lead the historic mass movement to register Black and poor people to vote.

This is the story of what can happen when poor people with seemingly no power or no vote stand up and call for an end to their poverty and their oppression. This is the story of Fannie Lou Hamer, a Black woman who came from the cotton fields of Mississippi to lead the fight for human rights.

Some people today think that if you're going to be a leader in the community, the state or even the nation, you must come from a rich family, from a crowd that has clout, with powerful financial and political connections. But Fannie Lou Hamer had none of these—in fact her "connections" were just the opposite. But she did have the power of other poor people, Black, White, Asian and Latin American behind her. She did have the power of these people organized and on the march.

What were her family "connections"? She was the grandchild of Black slaves. Her ancestors were kidnapped from Africa and forced over here on ugly, stinking ships to enrich the lives of slave owners. The land these slave owners "owned" was land which belonged to the Indians (Native Americans), the rightful owners, but they had been driven away. So the land and labor were both stolen and many in our country today are rich still from this stolen wealth.

Fannie Lou Hamer was born the youngest of two children, in Ruleville, Mississippi. Her parents were sharecroppers and this means modern slaves. They worked a few acres and supposedly got a part of the crop, but they were cheated out of this when the landlord added up the groceries he gave them while the crop was made. The groceries and other "furnishings" were priced by the landlord and the final bill for these came high. If the sharecropper even questioned the final total of the grocery bill he would be lynched—hung from a tree with a fire underneath him. Even women and children were not spared such execution.

Fannie Lou Hamer was six years old when she picked her first cotton. Her mother would tie rags around her feet and the feet of her brothers and sisters since they could not afford shoes. They would go out to plantations around the countryside and ask if they could pick the cotton that had been left in the fields after it supposedly had been all fully picked.

She only went to school until she was 12 years old. Her family needed her to help earn a livelihood. Later at 24 she married Perry Hamer and took a job as a sharecropper and time-keeper on a plantation to help support her family and her ailing mother, who by this time was turning blind. But in 1962 something new happened and it changed Mississippi, the South and the country. And the changes are still at work though sometimes they seem to slow down somewhat and later flare up into more intense movements.

In 1962 some members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) came to her county, Sunflower County, to organize for civil rights and especially for getting Black and other poor people to register to vote. Before this, only property owners, professionals, home owners and other "substantials" in the eyes of those who ruled, were registered voters. These were all White. Poor Whites and all Blacks were not allowed to vote. These "substantial" folks who

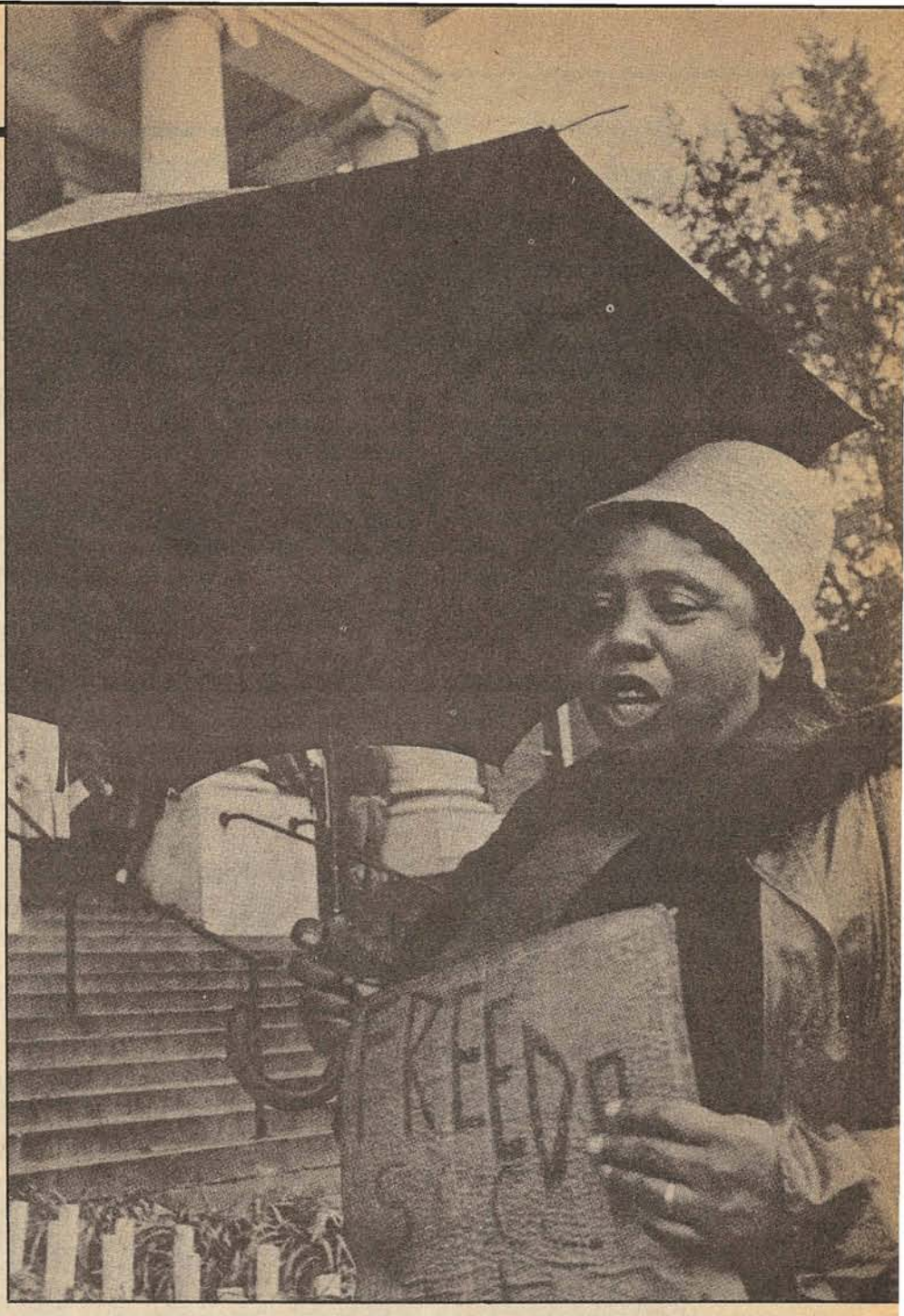
Eugene Feldman teaches history at Columbia College and is on the staff at the DuSable Museum.

ran the county and who ran all counties in the South, were in charge of who could register and who could not. Blacks who tried to register were killed, jailed, beaten and forced to lose their homes and jobs. Here we were telling the Russians how undemocratic they were, and we ourselves were not allowing democracy to all in our own country.

Because Blacks and poor Whites could not vote, a racist man like Senator Eastland could be elected term after term. And because he had "seniority", he could be chairman of important committees in the U.S. Senate — committees that further oppressed good people who were trying to build greater democracy. Those who were trying to do this were hauled before Eastland's Internal Security Committee and pronounced a "communist"

"You'll see me every thirty days 'till I pass the registration tests."
— Fannie Lou Hamer

"anarchist" or most certainly a "spy" for the enemy of our country. It was in this way that Eastland and his friends were able to control matters to enrich themselves. But Fannie Lou Hamer, her friends, and the young people from SNCC planned to upset this kind of undemocratic set-up. They planned to register Blacks and poor Whites. They planned to challenge the system that had existed since this country began.



Fannie Lou Hamer's life was courageously dedicated to the struggle of Black and poor people for civil rights and economic justice.

In 1962 the young students came to Sunflower County and held a freedom rally. Fannie Lou attended and it all made sense to her. People were poor and miserable because they could not have control of their own communities and of their own affairs. She was stirred by the speeches she heard and by the spirits of these beautiful young people. Later she led a group of 17 to the Sunflower court house to register to vote. She was met there with the greatest kind of terror and hostility. She lost the job she had held for 18 years; her husband lost his job and they lost their car. But in spite of that, she told the authorities and those who went with her to register that "You'll see me every thirty days till I pass the registration tests." She continued to work for rights even though she was jailed and beaten. Yes, she was beaten just for asking for the right to vote in a country that boasted it was democratic.

The Blacks of Mississippi did not feel they could find a political home in the Eastland Ku Klux Klan-minded Democratic Party, so they organized the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964. Fannie Lou Hamer was a leader of this movement. When the Democratic Party held its convention that year in Atlantic City, she had the courage to lead the delegation of this new group there, where they demanded representation. They demanded that

Looking Back

continued

they be fully recognized as the Mississippi delegation and that the Eastland group be unseated. But this did not happen and again hypocrisy ruled. But the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party was not idle. Fannie Lou Hamer and her friends spoke up everywhere exposing the false nature of the political set-up in the South and in the country that allowed such a structure to exist. Finally in 1965, after much blood was shed, after many lives and careers were destroyed, the Voting Rights Act became law.

Left: Mother grieves over daughter killed in 1963 Birmingham church bombing. Right: Demonstrators resist beating by police with "water hose."

This did not end the struggle for human rights and for human freedom. Fannie Lou Hamer continued her organizing efforts. She joined the campaign of the Freedom Labor Union in Mississippi to get better conditions for sharecroppers and farm workers. In the 1930's there had been the Alabama Sharecroppers Union and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. These were hard fought campaigns and Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper herself, spoke out. She went to Leland, Mississippi where a rally was held and she urged the farm workers and sharecroppers there to refuse to work, to join the union and to gain better conditions of life for themselves and their children. The Freedom Labor Union extended later to eight Mississippi counties and Fannie Lou Hamer was one of its principal leaders.

Blacks who tried to register were killed, jailed, beaten and forced to lose their homes and jobs.

Police arrests of Black youth in the South demonstrating their right to vote (left) could not stop the rising cries of "We Shall Overcome." (right)

Fannie Lou Hamer knew that her own struggle as a sharecropper and a grandchild of slaves was related to the freedom fight of Africans and other third world people. She traveled to Africa and spoke there to encourage their efforts for independence. She spoke many times to women's groups and saw that the women – especially Black women – were exploited all the more. She was bound to remove all of these distinctions so that women anywhere, Black, White, Asian, Native American and Latin American would no longer be slaves of people with sexist ideas. In 1970 she was honored in Chicago by the alumni of the Citizens Information Service Leadership Training Institute. Two Chicago women spoke of the heroic work Mrs. Hamer performed for human rights. They were Mrs. Nancy Jefferson and Mrs. Brenetta Howell. A plaque was awarded to Fannie Lou Hamer that said she was a "shining inspiration to the masses of people and to black women all across the nation." Mrs. Theresa Fambro Hooks, a columnist for the Chicago Defender wrote lovingly of this beautiful and wonderful woman.

In 1970 she also spoke at the Chicago Loop City College to an audience of Black and White students. The room where she spoke was packed. She told them about her campaigns to organize the right to vote, her jailings, beatings and other tortures she and her campaign workers endured. She stressed the fact that at all times poor Whites worked with her and that she does not hate Whites or for that matter, anyone. She said that she would not hate, "because I have seen what hate has done." She spoke on the importance of all people joining and working together.

In 1973 she was one of the principal speakers in a conference whose central theme was community control of police. This was held in Chicago at the University of Illinois Circle Campus. Fannie Lou Hamer and her co-workers had been victims of police abuse and she spoke strongly in favor of community control of police. Until her very end Fannie Lou Hamer was an active participant in the rights campaigns. When she died in 1977 Whites and Blacks followed her coffin at her funeral in Ruleville, Mississippi, the city of her birth. She would have greatly appreciated the words of many of her former co-workers in the field of civil rights. They urged that the movement continue, that people of all ethnic groups continue to unite, that women continue to offer leadership in the struggle, because no one, especially the money-men, could break this kind of unity.□

The Freedom Labor Union extended later to eight Mississippi counties and Fannie Lou Hamer was one of its principal leaders.

A book, FANNIE LOU HAMER – A biography written by Susan Kling and designed by Peggy Lipschutz, will be available at an autographing party to be held at the DuSable Museum of African-American History, 57th and Cottage Grove, on October 28, from 3 – 5 p.m. It will sell for $3.50. Refreshments will be served.

The 'Wrongful Death' Of Pearlie Sutherland

What happened to Pearlie Sutherland could happen in many places, any time, to any of us. It will happen as long as people have to deal with a set of preconceived assumptions about a neighborhood, a building, or an ethnic group, as long as people are unfairly judged by where economic necessity forces them to live. What follows is an account of the death of Mr. Sutherland and the edited notes of Keep Strong's investigator.

"My husband passed away the 19th of August. About 3:30 in the morning he took a heart attack, so I called my daughter and she called an ambulance. It was about 15 or 20 minutes before they got up here. My husband had already passed out and falled over in the bed.

I told them he is having a heart attack and said "please hurry," I kept begging them to hurry. And one of them said, "he's not having a heart attack, I'm telling you lady he's just faking, he's not having a heart attack."

He said, "What did you do, have a fight?" and I said, no we didn't have no fight.

He said, "Does he have epileptic fits?" I said no, he doesn't and he's not on no drugs and he's not drunk.

He said, "He's just faking you, there is nothing wrong with him." Then he said, "if he's having a heart attack he must be taking medicine. Does he have any heart medicine?"

I said yes he does. He said "Well let me see it." I got the 4 kinds of strong medicine he's been on for his heart. And after they saw the medicine, they finally realized he was having a heart attack. Then they took him down to the ambulance. They tried to help him down there. By the time they got through fooling around, arguing and saying he was faking it was too late.

I have no idea why they said he was faking. My husband never bothered nobody. You can ask anybody around here, ask anyone in the building here, they all know him.

If they'd of taken him right down they might have saved him. I said to them, hurry, please hurry!

He was 55 years old. He'd already had 2 heart attacks, this is the third one.

By the time they got him downstairs it was too late. We were married 33 years. We didn't fight or fuss. He never drank, didn't take any drugs except his heart medicine. He had a bad heart, maybe they couldn't have saved him anyhow, but they could have tried.

Before, when he had a heart attack, it was 9:30 in the morning, we were sitting and watching T.V. He had pains in his heart and just fell over on the floor. We called the ambulance. They took him to Ravenswood Hospital. These were different paramedics, they were nice. They didn't take time to strap him in, just rushed him down the steps and took him to Ravenswood.

My daughter and her husband came up here, and were here while this was going on. We all went to the hospital. They took him to Weiss this time. I wish they would have taken him to

Ravenswood, they have a cardiac unit there and heart specialists. Weiss doesn't have the same as Ravenswood.

They told me to get in the front seat of the ambulance. I don't know what they were doing back in the ambulance.

The doctor at the hospital said he died on the way, said he was dead on arrival.

There was 3 medics all together. They weren't too old—whoever worked at that time, it was 3:30 in the morning.

We have lived in Uptown since 1960, that's when we came up to Chicago. I have 2 children and 8 grandchildren.

They kept saying there's nothing wrong with him – You know you have a heart attack, every minute counts.

It won't bring him back now, but maybe this will help to save someone else.

"After they saw the medicine they finally realized he was having a heart attack. By the time they got through fooling around it was too late."

Friday, September 7: Called Dr. Vera Markovin at Illinois Masonic Hospital. Markovin is head of emergency medical dispatching for the northside area. Dr. Markovin got very upset when I began asking questions about the incident. She came on very strong and in an authoritarian manner. She said she was not about to let anyone interview her ambulance attendants. Markovin said she would find out who they were and question them herself. She assured me that she would be able to check on everything because it is all on tape. She said it would take her at least a week to investitgate. When I asked her if I could contact her then, she replied she didn't know how much information she would be able to release.

Tuesday, September 11: called Fire Department on Wilson Avenue (rescue unit was sent from Wilson Ave. fire house to Mr. Sutherland's on Aug. 19). The man who answered the phone at the fire station said they didn't keep any records there and referred me to the fire academy on DeKoven Street. I asked for the number and he told me he had it in a little book. After a few minutes he came back to the phone and said he couldn't find the number.

10:30...called the fire academy after getting the number myself. The records department referred me to the fire commissioner's office in room 105 of City Hall. The man on the phone said a court subpeona is necessary to look at the records. If someone wants to commend the actions of a Fire Department rescue unit, they should write a letter to the fire commissioner...I did't say why I wanted the records.

1:00...called back to the fire academy. They looked up the report. Report indicated that rescue unit had been called at 4:25 on the morning of the 19th and arrived at 4:28 at the Magnolia Street address. The report read that the rescue unit had worked for one hour on the patient but did not say where it took place. It concluded that the team left the site at 5:25 for the hospital. The report had mentioned that the patient had three previous heart attacks and was taking several heart medicines. The man reading me the report would not give me the names of the attendants or the number of the ambulance. He said that he was not allowed to give out that information without a subpeona. The report did not indicate when the patient had died.

1:45...called Weiss Memorial Hospital records department. Spoke to Susan in records. Indicated that I had an authorization from Mrs. Sutherland to pick up records of Mr. Sutherland at Weiss. She said call back in the morning to give her time to "find out" the procedure.

Wednesday, September 12: called back Susan in records at Weiss. She said authorization would have to be notarized and signed by next of kin. She also said that the hospital had no record or copy of signatures from the next of kin. "Apparently no one came to the hospital with Mr. Sutherland on the morning of the 19th." Susan said the cost would be $5 for xerox copies of Mr. Sutherland's records. But Mrs. Sutherland had told me that the whole family went to the hospital with Mr. Sutherland, including the grandchildren. The doctor called Mrs. Sutherland and her daughter into the emergency room that morning and told them that Mr. Sutherland had died. Mrs. Sutherland was asked to sign something. But she was very upset so her daughter signed at least 5 other forms for her.

Later that morning...accompanied Mrs. Sutherland and her daughter to Weiss Hospital to pick up records. Asked Susan if the names of the ambulance attendants would appear on the records. She said they would appear. In the section titled, "history-physical exam," the report read, "55 year old male patient was brought in under complete cardio-pulminary arrest. Code blue was called but was unsuccessful. Patient declared dead at 5:30 a.m., no pulse, no blood pressure, no respiration. Pupils are fixed and dilated. To Rowlands."

The report stated that the patient had been brought in by Squad #2073, Star 12310.

A quick check with the head of the trauma unit at another emergency room in the area indicated that the fire department ambulance crew makes out four copies of its reports. They keep a copy. One copy goes to Dr. Markovin at Illinois Masonic and two go to the hospital with the patient's records. The

Pearlie Sutherland

patient, or the patient's next of kin in this case, should be able to get copies of this report with the rest of the records from the hospital.

Thursday, September 13: Mrs. Sutherland received a bill from Weiss Memorial Hospital for $252.10 for services after the patient arrived at the hospital. The items on the bill were $23 medications, $30 emergency surgery, $60 code blue, $100 code blue cart, $9 IV solutions and $30 for something called 'routine fee'. But the report from Weiss, signed by six attending doctors, had indicated that Mr. Sutherland was dead on arrival at 5:26.

Friday, September 21: Went to the fire academy, armed with a letter from our attorney. After speaking with two different people in records I was introduced to Sgt. Todd, head of emergency medical service. He made a call to Mr. McNallis in the city corporation counsel's office who told him to go ahead and show me the report. Todd folded over the bottom part of the report, hiding the names of the ambulance attendants, and ambulance number. He watched closely as I copied the information off the report...

Paramedics first impression- blank

I asked Todd why it was blank. He said the men from the rescue unit were probably too busy working on the patient because they knew what the problem was.

Mrs. Ruby Sutherland received a $252.10 bill from Weiss Hospital for "services" performed on her husband, Pearlie, who arrived DOA at Weiss on August 19 at 5:25 a.m.

Patient complaint and status- *unruly — unconscious*

Asked how this could be. They answered that the patient was possibly having convulsions. (Mrs. Sutherland never mentioned anything about convulsions.) Medical sources indicate it is highly unlikely that a person could be having a heart attack and convulsions simultaneously.

Vital Signs

Time	Blood Pressure	Pulse	Respiration
4:30	0	60	6
4:40	0	0	0
4:50	0	0	0
5:10	0	0	0

Condition on arrival at Hosp.- *apparent D.O.A.*

The report said the following drugs were given to Mr. Sutherland by the rescue unit; intravenously D5W-500, sodium bicarbonate-100, 2 pi 1 10,000-10mpg, cal. chloride-5mpg, bicarb-50, decadron-80 mpg, isuprel-2mpg. Further, the report said the team treated Mr. Sutherland at the scene with oxygen, ventilation, airway insertion, endotracheal tube, cardiac compression, cardiac monitor, defibrillation x 2. The report declared the treatment unsuccessful.

Tuesday, September 25: called Dr. Markovin back for the results of her vestigation. Investigation had been temporarily halted for her two week vacation. Will return October 8.

Questions remaining.

Why didn't the Fire Department rescue unit take Mr. Sutherland to the hospital immediately?

Who is hiding all the information missing from Weiss? Why are they concealing that information?

Why is Weiss charging Mrs. Sutherland over $250 for work performed on a DOA?

Why did the rescue unit report a man stricken with his third heart attack as being "unruly?"

Who is behind the obvious cover-up and why?□

Chrysler Workers Face The Shutdown

"Robbin, Stealin, Cuttin throats," a bus driver from Detroit, with 38 years behind the wheel, answered. 50,000 auto workers are unemployed around Detroit. Over 3,000 have been laid off from Dodge Main in Hamtramck, some since last December. Chrysler Corp. is shutting down Dodge Main permanently. Anger and frustration are thick in the air and money is running short. The tired auto worker cracks a half smile as he spells out the frustration...

by Marc Zalkin **Photos by Tom Lindsay**

Chrysler Workers

"They don't want welfare. They

"I don't know, they say they're in trouble. They got a lot of cars. Whether they made too many cars or not, I don't know. They're running quite a few of the 80's (1980 Chryslers) in there now. They're only running one line. They got two lines in there but they're only running one of them. They were running both lines until the change over. They're running one shift.

"SUB pay they say is running out. When you get unemployment. You bring it back down here and they make up 95 percent of your pay. A lot of them that's laid off, maybe they only have six, seven years, well, that SUB ran out. They don't get no more. They only get unemployment. They get that for 52 weeks then they don't get nothing. Then they got to go find another job. I don't even know what they'll do with me. I'll be out of a job. I've got 16 years in. The thing is that this ain't the only plant that's laid down a lot of people. There are a lot of people off here. I've got 16 years but you need almost 16 years just to be working here. Okay, so at the other plants they must be down to the same things. Them guys over there, maybe they got 16 years or better. If they lay me off here, where are they going to transfer me to? The other guys got more time in than I do. So they wouldn't even pick me up there.

"If you go into another Chrysler plant, you go in just as if you was just hired in. You don't have any choice in your job. You have to take whatever they have. I don't even know if you carry your seniority over there. You would plant-wise, but as far as picking your job, I really don't know.

"If they close this plant down it's going to make trouble in Detroit and everything else. You know the whole Hamtramck, everybody depends on that place there. All these little stores will close. That will hurt a whole lot of people."

The speaker is Harold Campau. As he talks, he stands across the street from Dodge Main. From time to time he nods his head towards the huge plant across the street.

As recently as the early 1960's Dodge Main, often called Hamtramck (the Chrysler factory is actually in the city of Hamtramck, which is surrounded on all sides by the city of Detroit), was employing 36,000 workers, running over two dozen departments on three shifts. There are between 1,700 and 2,200 people working there today and by the summer of 1980 the plant will be shutdown.

On May 29, spokesperson for Chrysler announced a "phase out of operations at the Hamtramck Assembly Plant," as part of its program to "reduce losses, increase efficiency and productivity and establish a firm basis for the continued operation of the company." The company moved almost immediately to cut the Dodge Main work force in half. By the end of August, the number 3 auto maker, and tenth largest manufacturing company in the U.S. had laid off more than 40,000 of its 100,000 employees. Production was down at Ford and General Motors as well. 48,000 had been laid off by the number one and two auto makers.

With close to 100,000 auto workers out of work, Mr. Campau's concern

Harold Campau, worker at Chrysler's Dodge Main plant — "If they close this plant down it's going to make trouble in Detroit. Everybody depends on that place."

Chrysler's extra 80,000 cars were produced through a tortuous speed-up on the assembly line.

want to work."

about his future seems justified. Before it announced the closing of Hamtramck, Chrysler had already shut down the Lynch Road assembly plant, where the company had invested millions of dollars in retooling just a few years ago, and was preparing to shut down sections of its Jefferson Ave. and Eldon Ave. plants for the fall.

The long-term layoffs brought on by the closing of Hamtramck have cut severely into the SUB (supplementary unemployment benefits) fund negotiated by the union several years ago and designed to hold up workers laid off in model change-over periods. The contract allows for the company to put a few cents per hour into a separate SUB fund. But with thousands of workers laid off since last December, the company was forced to announce in the end of August that the fund paying SUB benefits "to laid off workers with less than 10 years seniority had dried up." Workers in this category suffered a 50 percent cut in income almost immediately. Men and women who had been bringing home $250 a week when they were working and receiving slightly over two hundred (from a combination of state unemployment and SUB) while they were laid off, are now trying to survive on $87 a week. But that won't last long either. Unemployment makes payments for 52 weeks. Those who have been laid off since last December, now have only another eight weeks of money coming.

Mosad Nagi is one of those laid off since December. He sits in a barren pizza parlor, a block and a half down the street from Dodge Main, amidst a dozen of his friends playing cards and explains what they are facing.

"Most of these people have four, five, seven and eight years at Chrysler Hamtramck and they are laid off right now. They don't collect no SUB no more. The only income they have is from compensation. That's not enough. Compensation goes from $87 to $100 to $120. That's not enough for us for rent and food and gas and cars and payments and clothes and all that. They have families. They need money for their families and for themselves. They are waiting for the company to have them back to work. But we don't know what the company is going to do. They say they are going to open the lines back to work. But some of them say they are not going to open. The company is trying to shut the plant down. What I heard is that the government is charging a lot of taxes for this plant. That's what they say. They lose a lot of money this way. They want to close it down.

Mosad Nagi (seated in center) and fellow laid-off Chrysler workers. Detroit's 100,000 member Arab community will be hard hit by the massive layoffs.

Mr. Nagi points to one of his friends standing next to him as he talks. "This guy, he doesn't get compensation. He doesn't know what to do. They don't want welfare. They want to work. Welfare is not enough. What are they going to give him? Food stamps? That won't be no good. Go buy food. That's it. Can't buy clothes or anything else. They need money, a check, cash money. Most people have been laid off since December. They go all over to look for a job but can't find any."

Before the shutdown began, workers of Arab background were the second largest group at Dodge Main behind Black people. The massive layoffs have exacted a hard toll on the over 100,000 member Arab community in and around Detroit and the future looks as dim as the past. Mr. Nagi continues, "The union is going to do nothing. The union says they can't do anything. If they get that money from the government maybe they will call us back to work. If not, a lot of them will have to leave Detroit. They'll have to leave and go look for jobs. What are they going to do in Detroit. What are they going to stay here for, walking around without jobs, without money."

For the first six months of 1979 Chrysler Corp. reports a net loss of $261 million, the largest loss in the history of the company and greater than the $259.5 million in reported losses for a twelve month period in 1975. Most recent projections by company spokesmen project the loss for all of 1979 at as much as $700 million and for the 1979-80 (two year period) at well over a billion. While company Chairman John Riccardo (chief spokesman for the company until his sudden retirement in mid-September) had continually attempted to blame the company's mounting losses and sinking position on the burden of carrying out the federal government's environmental and mileage regulations, a 15 minute tour of Detroit would indicate that Mr. Riccardo was not speaking to the facts.

A 15 minute tour of Detroit would turn up quite a few Chryslers, quite a

Chrysler Workers

"If they close this plant down

few rows of Chryslers, rows upon rows of Chryslers. On August 31, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Chrysler's holding 80,000 automobiles it couldn't sell. The company had for years justified production of a greater number of cars than were at any time on order, by calling it a 'sales bank.' The extra cars were produced through a tortuous speed-up on the assembly line. As production-line workers are paid by the hour, a company reduces its per unit cost, by increasing the speed of the line (automobiles are assembled on huge conveyor lines, work is done at a position along the

Downtown Hamtramck, Michigan.

moving line), and the deafening noise and overt pressure by as much as 50 percent. It was these conditions that caused legal precedent a few years back when a jury found a man not guilty of first degree murder after he had shot his foreman. The jury had been on a walking tour of the plant in which the incident took place.

By June the sales bank had reached 110,000 cars. The additional costs in renting space to park them and guarding, cleaning and regularly starting them ran the losses into hundreds of millions of dollars.

And some who know the industry have been openly skeptical about how much of Chrysler's losses are real and what percent are paper and accounting tricks. Wall Street analyst Arthur Davis told *The Wall Street Journal,* "There are lots of ways to make your profits and losses go up and down...If you want to make a dramatic statement just before you go to Congress for help, you can do that." Other analysts have suggested that Chrysler can show huge losses in its books through accounting tricks. An example: the company can add up many of the future costs for retooling over the next five to ten years and say it lost that money this year. But the *Journal* reported that Chrysler "declined to comment on that possibility."

Not mentioned in the *Wall Street Journal* is the fact that the company's profits and losses are reported after dividends, interest and short term notes have been paid. The fluctuations of profits and losses have little immediate effect on the investors (banks and other major money lenders as represented on the company's board of directors). In fact, closer examination of the company's reports show that almost $600 million was paid out in interest by Chrysler and it's financial wing, Chrysler Financial Corp. (They finance dealers to buy showrooms, drivers to buy Chryslers and borrow money on the notes from large banks), to creditors even while the company reported a loss of $205 million for the year.

In a dramatic move in mid-summer, Chrysler's Chairman John Riccardo and President Lee Iacocca announced that they were cutting their own salaries in a major cost-cutting program. Messrs. Riccardo and Iacocca shocked the business world when they said they were only asking for $1 a year from the company. This was seen as a move to inspire company employees to suffer the "sacrifices necessary" to keep the company going, and convince the government that Chrysler really needed to borrow a billion dollars. Actually, the pay cut idea turned out to be a pretty shallow move on the part of Mssr. Riccardo and Iacocca. Iacocca's pay cut didn't mention the $1.5 million in deferred "bonus payments" his contract calls for the company to pay him this year. Riccardo retired from the company less than a month later, anyhow.

The focus of Chrysler's efforts over the last several months has been to convince the public and the government that without massive federal assistance, to the tune of $1 billion in interest-free loans, the auto maker is in danger of going under. Toward that goal the company has mobilized "the broadest, smartest, most serious" lobbying drive in its history. An unnamed Michigan congressman called the drive "one of the best organized campaigns"by any such special interest group in history. In the fight Chrysler has deployed 4,700 dealers, 19,000 suppliers, dozens of local officials from areas where Chrysler, or it's dealers or suppliers, do business and two high-powered Washington law firms (one for Democrats and one for Republicans) to pressure legislators to grant assistance to the company.

Chrysler's success in this kind of fight is known worldwide. In 1975 Riccardo announced that the company's British operation was to be folded eliminating 25,000 jobs. The British government bit and produced $329 million in cash and loan guarantees. Three years later all of Chrysler's European operators were sold anyway. The latest campaign appears to be very effective. Representative Henry Reuss of Wisconsin, Chairman of the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee has been a vocal and important opponant of government money for Chrysler. But his statements indicate that he has bought the assumption that Chrysler might go under. Congressman Reuss: "Should we continue making the creaky structure of our economy even more ramshackled by trying to save a company that is about to expire because it has insisted on making gas guzzlers that people no longer want?"

However, sources in Detroit report

it's going to make trouble in Detroit..."

that there is little danger the company will go down under any circumstances. The company has reported almost $1 billion in unused bank credit it has coming, recently negotiated the sale of $730 million in uncollected notes it held to General Motors and HFC. Chrysler has also negotiated a new $1.5 billion revolving credit agreement with a group of large banks headed by Manufacturers Hanover of New York. (A revolving line of credit is a contractual agreement to provide loans. When a loan is paid off under the agreement, the amount is again available to the borrower.)

In spite of all this floating cash, Treasury Secretary Miller, speaking for the Administration, seems determined to throw a few bones to the barking dog. Declaring, "The administration recognizes that there is a public interest in sustaining to the degree possible, the jobs and productive capacity represented by the Chrysler facilities, and in maintaining a strong and competitive national automotive industry," the treasury secretary has met with Chrysler officials regularly over the last several months to come up with a plan that can get through Congress.

It is the feeling of many that Chairman Riccardo was the most candid when he recently outlined why Chrysler has to have public money to continue to operate, "It didn't take brains to know the small car revolution was coming. We saw it coming long ago and pioneered the front wheel drive..." in 1967...if we'd had General Motors resources we'd have been out there with small front wheel drive...". Mr. Riccardo went on to explain that Chrysler needed the $1 billion a year more for 1979 and 1980 to spend on engineering, research and development. From these comments it should be clear that Chrysler will not use the public money it is asking for to re-employ Mosad Nagi and his friends. The company has already stated its intention of closing down Hamtramck by the summer of 1980.

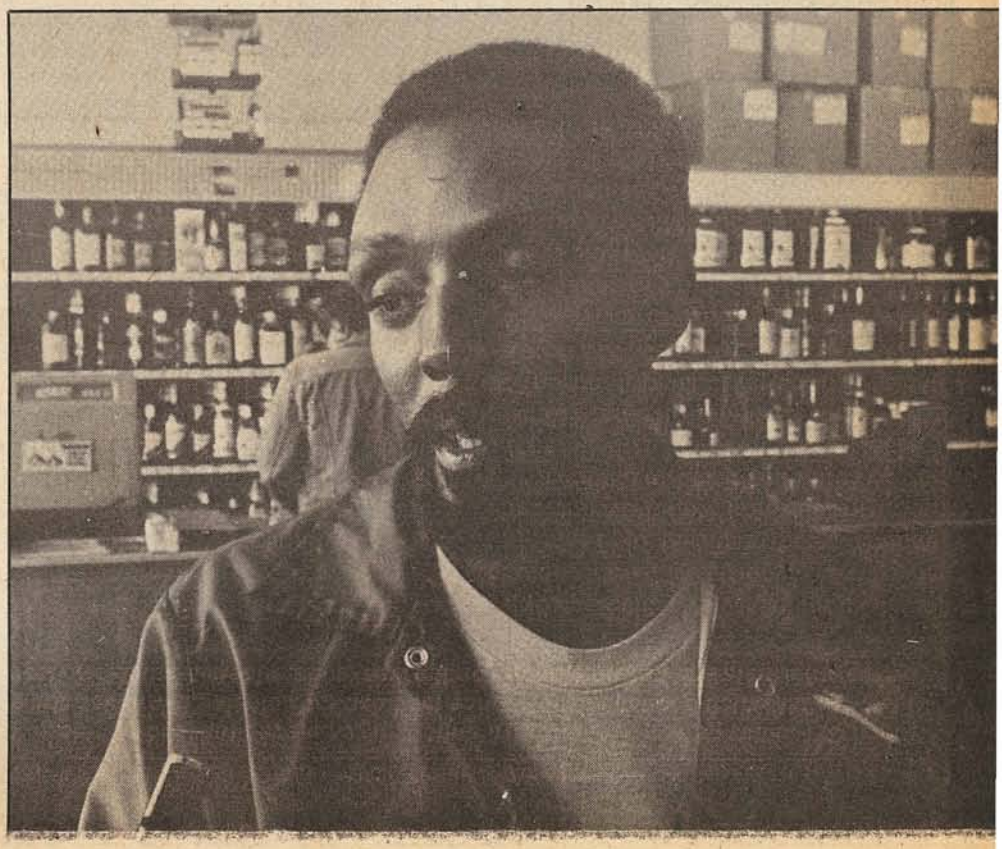
In the final analysis, the closing of Hamtramck must be viewed as a main point in Chrysler's response to the government's demand for "substantive contributions or concessions from all those who have an interest in Chrysler's future, including management, stockholders, creditors, suppliers and employees."

It would seem that Chrysler has decided to pass the largest part of the burden of such a "substantive contribution" to the hourly paid auto workers. And this, in more ways than one. David McCloud, a worker in the Hamtramck cushion department explains, "No one knows exactly what's going down. There's supposed to be another layoff, the day after tomorrow. They're going down to 1969 (seniority). There's about 1,700 in there right now. Maybe 2,200, I'm not sure. The steward went around, the plant committeemen, and told people who had 1969 seniority that they might be getting laid off. It's all messed up in here man. I'm pretty sure they're going to close the plant. There's rumors going around that they might close the plant in December of this year. It's going to be rough, man. People with families can't make it, man. I get $97 a week unemployment. And if they set me out on the streets you know I can't make it on $97 a week. I'm accustomed to getting $200 some dollars a week. That's a hell of a pay cut.

"They had us working overtime. They do anything they want. Things might get worse. Like up in our department, they got jobs mixed up so there's entirely too much work on one particular individual. We're humping up there, man. I wish you could get in that plant and see what's happening."

No one expressed the anger, outrage and desperation of the auto workers better than a Detroit bus driver with 38 years behind the wheel, when he was asked what he thought all those people would do when they found themselves with little hope of re-employment. He didn't blink an eye and answered, "robbin', stealin', cuttin' throats."□

David McCloud makes cushions for Chrysler cars at the Hamtramck plant and brings home about $200 a week. If they close the plant by December and he's laid off, he'll get only $97 a week in unemployment.



"There's A Lot More Happening Than The Rent"

INSIDE THE CHICAGO PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

by the Keep Strong Research Staff

The richest one percent of the population owns a seventh of all the real estate, more than half the corporate stock, almost all of the trust assets and a seventh of all the cash in checking and savings accounts...1/20th of this one percent of the population owns a fifth of all corporate stock, 2/5 of all corporate bonds and nearly 2/3 of all tax free state and local bonds.

Money flows fast and easily between LaSalle Street and Room 704 of the Daley Center in Chicago. Room 704 is the office of the Public Building Commission (PBC), a governmental agency set up by Mayor Daley in 1956. The PBC sells revenue bonds to finance the construction and operation of major government office buildings and other facilities. Since 1963 PBC has sold $492,000,000 in bonds which have been bought by the big Chicago banks and which are held by the country's leading banks, insurance companies, pension funds and other

Powerful Cook County Board President George Dunne (above, rear center) presides at the monthly meeting of the Chicago Public Building Commission. The PBC sells bonds to finance government buildings without voter approval. Board members include the leaders of Chicago's financial empire and the Cook County Democratic Party.

major financial institutions. There have been 10 bond issues since 1963 and not a single one has required the approval of the voters.

The PBC builds for the city and four other governments in the area: Cook County, the Board of Education, the Chicago Park District and the City Colleges. In return, these governments sign leases for 20 years and pay rent to the PBC. Last year the PBC collected $571,196,427 in rents from their tenants. Close to 123 projects have been financed by the PBC and the list of their holdings keeps growing: they own the Audy Home; the Civic Center; 23 public schools; 16 police stations; 21 fire stations; 18 ward sanitation yards; the Edgewater Golf Club and the South Shore Country Club.

But here's the scheme. To pay the PBC the rent owed on all these buildings and projects, the public gets taxed. Last year, it was estimated that Chicago residents paid more than $64 million in property taxes (that is where your rent money goes) to the Chicago area governments that rent from PBC. They use the rental income to pay off the bonds which means paying off the banks. In 1978 the PBC paid out more than $20 million in interest alone which went to fill the coffers of Chicago's biggest banks and the nations' top insurance companies.

History of the PBC

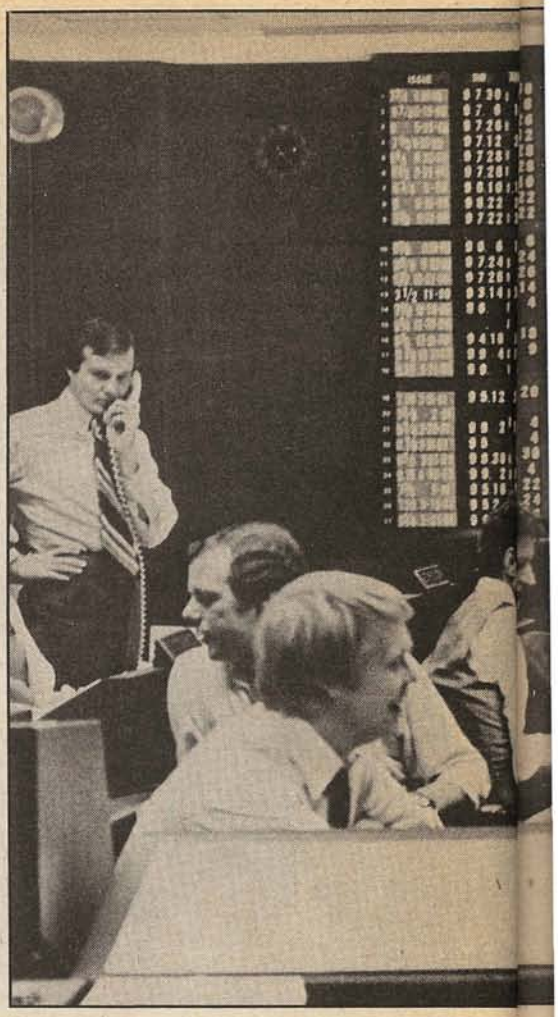
The history of the PBC goes back to 1954 when a group of prominent business and civic leaders presented Mayor Martin Kennelly with a downtown urban renewal plan called the

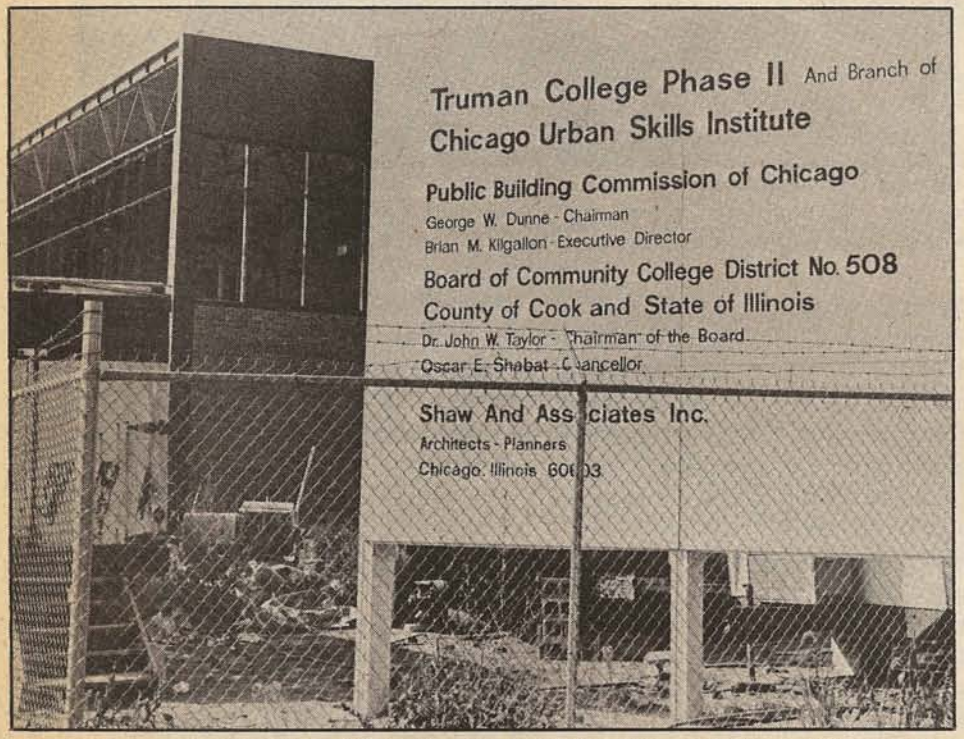
PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

Fort Dearborn Project. The plan called for massive slum clearance and redevelopment on the near north side. To finance the grand plan and with an eye on future masterplans, Mayor Daley, elected in 1955, urged the creation of a public building commission that would have the power to issue revenue bonds. The bonds would be paid back over a period of 20 years with money collected from the rents on offices the PBC would build. Speaking at a downtown public hearing on the proposed Ft. Dearborn plan, Chicago business leader John Baird predicted the power of the PBC – "We believe that the Public Building Commission will fulfill its greatest role by providing an instrument for city and downtown development."

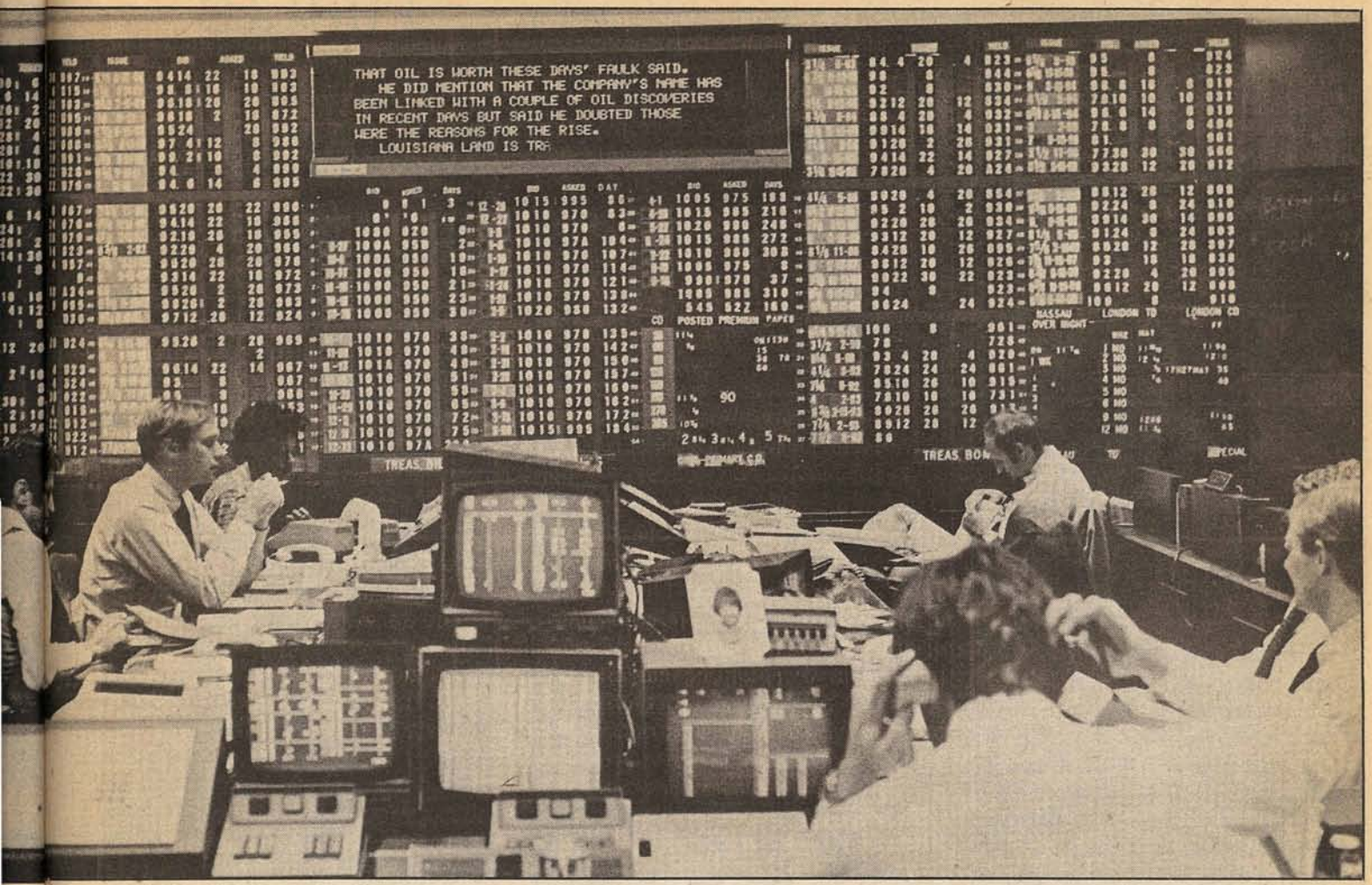
After the Fort Dearborn Project was abandoned, the city continued to finance urban renewal by putting bond issues before the voters. But in April 1963 Chicago voters, angry over rising property taxes, defeated Daley's $66 million bond issue which would have paid for massive slum clearance on the near west side. The time had come to call a halt to voter referendums on bond issues. A 1955 state law authorized cities to set up public building commissions which could sell revenue bonds without voter referendums. By going through PBC to finance urban renewal projects Mayor Daley had a powerful weapon to fight back any growing opposition to the masterplan.

Since its establishment in 1956 the PBC has been run and controlled by 11 board members who serve for five year terms. They represent the leadership of the various taxing bodies, Chicago business and the Cook County Democratic Party. The board includes Mayor Jane Byrne, Cook County Board President George Dunne, four members appointed by the Chicago mayor and five members appointed by the other governmental districts. Current board members include John Weithers (Executive Vice-president, Midwest Stock Exchange); Arthur S. Bowes (Vice-president of securities, Bowes Foundation); John D. Carey (President, Chicago Board of Education); Nicholas J. Melas (President of Metropolitan Sanitary District, insurance broker and former inspector for the politically controlled Department of Weights and Measures); Patrick O'Malley (President, Chicago Park District, board member, TWA, Casualty Insurance, Michigan Avenue National Bank); Samuel William Sax, (Chairman of the Board and chief executive officer, Exchange National Bank); John Sevcik, (Vice-chairman, Burton Dixie Corporation and general manager, McCormick Place) and Marvin Romanek (Real Estate developer). The board holds open meetings the second Tuesday of the month but when it comes time to discuss land acquisitions and contracts the board goes into




Truman College Phase II And Branch of
Chicago Urban Skills Institute
Public Building Commission of Chicago
George W. Dunne - Chairman
Brian M. Kilgallon - Executive Director
Board of Community College District No. 508
County of Cook and State of Illinois
Dr. John W. Taylor - Chairman of the Board
Oscar E. Shabat - Chancellor
Shaw And Associates Inc.
Architects - Planners
Chicago, Illinois 606

The PBC says that it will cost $9 million to build the Truman College Urban Skills Center. But the cost is likely to rise because there are no plans yet for the use of the second floor. "We're waiting to have dialogue with the community," one city college official said.


THAT OIL IS WORTH THESE DAYS" FAULK SAID.
HE DID MENTION THAT THE COMPANY'S NAME HAS
BEEN LINKED WITH A COUPLE OF OIL DISCOVERIES
IN RECENT DAYS BUT SAID HE DOUBTED THOSE
WERE THE REASONS FOR THE RISE.
LOUISIANA LAND IS TR

The bond room at the Continental Bank. Continental buys millions of dollars of bonds from the PBC and sells them at a profit to insurance companies, banks and other investors across the country.

"executive session" and asks the public to leave.

The Flow Of Money

To understand how the PBC operates and how Chicago banks get rich while the city goes into debt, let us take a look at the PBC bond issue Series 1971A for $56 million. This bond issue financed three major projects – the Audy Home, McCormick Place garage, and Stearns Quarry – a city-run incinerator dump.

First, let's understand what a "bond issue" means. When a city or corporation wants to build something and they don't have the cash-on-hand they announce they will sell or float bonds. A bond is simply a paper note from the government or corporation which promises to repay the borrowed money plus interest. (A bonus payment for the money borrowed.) Americans became familiar with bonds during WWII when the government issued bonds to finance the war.

When the city wants to finance major street repairs, install lighting, a new water sewer system or clear land in preparation for a new housing project, they announce a *general obligation bond* issue. This means that the city is obligated to pay off the bonds with money from general funds – taxes, grants, fees, etc. But when the Board of Education needs to build a new school or school park and they don't have the money they go to the PBC. The PBC sells revenue bonds, signs a lease with the Board of Education and collects rent from the board for the next 20 years.

When the PBC sold $56 million in bonds in 1971 the issue was quickly bought up by the top four Chicago banks: First National, Continental, Harris and Northern Trust plus an additional 100 buyers. These four Chicago banks are known in banking circles as the "Chicago group." They participate in almost every major PBC bond issue.

The banks buy the bonds at par (face value in denominations of $5,000 or more) and then sell them at a profit to individual bondholders. This includes many insurance companies. In 1978 A.M. Best reported that $38,590,000 in PBC revenue bonds or close to eight percent of all the bonds were held by major national insurance companies.

Once the PBC takes in the $56 million from the bond sale it places the money in two different funds or accounts, a construction fund and revenue fund. The construction fund takes care of business like land acquisi-

PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

PBC Rent Money Hidden In Rising Property Taxes For "Invisible" Chicago Governments

COOK COUNTY COLLECTOR
118 N. CLARK STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
HOURS 9 AM TO 5 PM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
REAL ESTATE TAX BILL — 1976

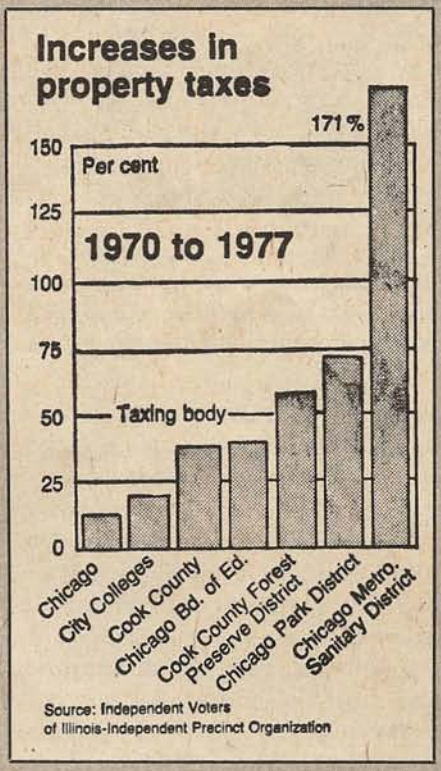
VOLUME XXX PERMANENT REAL ESTATE INDEX NUMBER XX-XX-XXX-XXX XXXX TOWN 70001 HYDE PARK
ASSESSED VALUATION 8,633 EQUALIZED VALUATION 12,215

RATE	AMOUNT OF TAX	TAXING AGENCIES
3.554	434.23	BOARD OF EDUCATION
.256	31.28	COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 508
.095	11.61	FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY
.484	59.14	METROPOLITAN SANITARY DIST OF GREATER CHGO
2.935	358.60	CITY OF CHICAGO
.843	103.00	CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
.430	52.52	COUNTY OF COOK
.188	22.97	HOSPITAL GOVERNING COMMISSION
8.785	1,073.35	TOTAL 1976 TAX

Property owners in Cook County pay taxes to support eight separate governmental bodies. (See tax bill above.) Four of these — the Chicago Board of Education, the Chicago Park District, the City of Chicago and the City Colleges are the chief tenants of a well-hidden unit of Chicago government and the city's biggest landlord — the Chicago Public Building Commission (PBC)

After Chicago voters rejected a multi-million dollar bond issue to finance massive urban renewal in the 1960's, Mayor Daley proposed that the PBC could sell revenue bonds to finance construction for the various governments without the approval of the voters. The PBC would have power to collect rents from the governments under 20-year leases and use the income to pay off the bonds.

Spiraling property taxes (see chart above) and higher rents in recent years can be explained in part by the increased debt invisible governments like the Chicago Park District owe to the PBC. Since 1970 the PBC spent more than $68 million to finance 13 projects for the Park District and property taxes paid to the Park District have increased more than 72 percent between 1970 and 1977. Independent state legislators charge that the whole system was a "ploy" by Mayor Daley and are recommending legislation to require voter approval of further tax increases by the special districts.



tion, construction work and has its own administrative and operating expense account. Figures reported by the PBC last year show that more than $7 million from the bond sale was spent on acquiring land for the three projects and more than $46 million was spent on construction costs. Money from each bond sale is placed in the revenue account and spent on investments.

Each year the PBC has to pay off the bonds which have "matured." When a bond "matures" it means that the person or company holding the bond can go cash in the original value of the bond plus the interest. By the end of 1979 the PBC will pay out $5,177,500 in interest, on the 1971 bond sale and by 1991, pay out in interest an additional $53,563,3000 making a total of $58,740,500 or 100 percent greater than the cost of construction ($46,304,357). By 1991 the bonds should be paid off which means that the leases end and ownership of the three facilities reverts to the county and the city.

The bonds held by the banks are, of course, tax exempt and add to the bank's investment. Continental Bank, for example, reported in 1978 that the bank holds $421 million in local and state bonds which will mature within one year at 9.58 percent interest. This means Continental can expect to collect more than $41 million in interest in one year and they don't have to pay a penny in taxes on it.

The PBC And The Banks

The PBC finances projects and gets money from the banks on a regular basis through an exclusive arrangement called a "revolving credit agreement." Under the special arrangement the PBC can borrow up to $100 million. When they pay it back, the money is again available to borrow. The PBC draws on this credit to get interim fi-

nancing for some projects. Interim financing provides the PBC with money for operating costs and administrative costs even before a bond issue has been planned. An example of a PBC project financed through the interim finance agreement is the Truman College Urban Skills Center in Uptown. Total cost of that project is estimated at $9 million.

The PBC And The Public

Every time the PBC holds a bond issue the burden falls back on the taxpayers. If you pay property taxes (and even if you don't) take a good look at a property tax bill. You pay taxes not only to the city of Chicago but to the seven other governmental districts. Each government uses your tax money (and your rent money) to pay rent to the PBC. Take the Chicago Board of Education for example. When the Board needs a new school built the PBC sells the bonds to finance it. The lease the Board signs with the PBC promises to pay the rent on time without failure, regardless of financial circumstance. When it comes time for budget cuts and it is a choice between the rent, and money for books and supplies, or teachers salaries, the Board always pays the rent.

Former alderman John Hoellen, an outspoken critic of the PBC, calls it "government in a closed closet." Hoellen points out that the city budget and the budgets of other governments never show the payments to the PBC in their annual budget. Part of the "closed closet" is the PBC's "fast track system" of awarding contracts. The PBC rarely consults its tenants about specific needs on projects which means that once construction is underway numerous changes have to be made, boosting the cost to the PBC and ultimately the taxpayer. Since 1969 the PBC has spent half a billion dollars for construction contracts in the city. At one single PBC meeting last year the Board requested $667,307 in additional contract charges for PBC projects! Doing business this way virtually eliminates all competitive bidding.

The management of the Daley Center, the PBC's first and largest project illustrates this elimination of competition. Since 1963, the Daley Center has been managed exclusively by the Whiston Group, which was founded by Frank Whiston, long-time crony of Mayor Daley and contributor to the Democratic Party. Whiston secured the multi-million dollar contract for the Daley Center when Daley was chairman of the PBC. Last October a letter from the Whiston Group to Brian Kilgallon, executive director of the PBC, requested a budget of more than $7 million. The letter notes that the request is higher than what is legally permitted under the terms of the lease and original bond issue, but is necessary "to manage and operate the Daley Center in a first class manner."

Future projects for the PBC include the renovation of Navy Pier and the construction of a new elementary school in Dearborn Park. When the city announced the controversial Dearborn Park plan in 1976 community groups across the city pointed out that public funds would be used to pay for such things as a new school, streets and other municipal services. Although no bond issue has been set, the 1979 PBC budget shows more than $1 million from the 1971 bond issue has been set aside for construction of the new school in the South Loop.

The next big PBC bond issue will probably be $29 million to renovate Navy Pier. Originally scheduled for October 3, the bond sale may be postponed because the city's bond rating dropped from "double A" to "A plus." This means that bond experts on Wall Street in New York believe that it is becoming more risky to invest money in the city of Chicago. They think it will be harder for the city to repay its debts.

A lower bond rating for Chicago means higher interest rates and the burden falls back on the public. The PBC and other governmental units will have to pay more (7 percent instead of 5 percent) to borrow money from the banks which means taxes increase and rents go up.

Bond rating services like Standard and Poor and Moody's and banks like

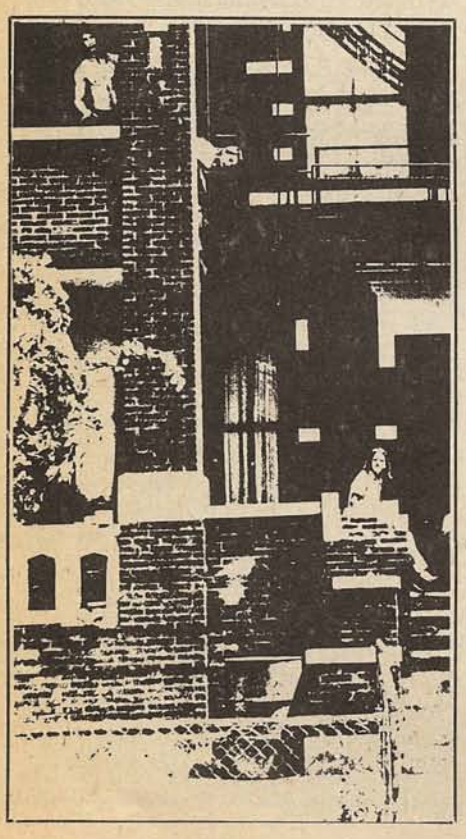
Dearborn Park (pictured above) will be the location of a new elementary school built by the Public Building Commission.

Continental operate highly specialized research divisions to pay people to do nothing but "watch the market." Detailed changes in Chicago's government, unemployment rate, crime rate and city finances may all be factors in evaluating an upcoming bond issue. According to one bond expert, a bond rating really has to do with "how well a city can solve its problems."

The recent drop in Chicago's bond rating foreshadows trouble ahead for the city — fewer bond sales, increased borrowing from the banks, higher interest rates, higher taxes and higher rents for the people. Jane Byrne assures the people that she will have the city's bond rating "back up" in 1980. But no matter what develops in Second City, Chicago's biggest landlord — the Chicago Public Building Commission can rest assured that the rent will be paid on time. □

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRASSROOTS

by Helen Shiller
and Slim Coleman



WITHOUT OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPON!

We have learned a bitter lesson. Fighting for the communities of Chicago, without our most powerful weapon has been like going into the ring with Muhammed Ali with one arm tied behind our back. Without our most powerful weapon, the power elite of this city can confuse us, divide us, divert us and continue to defeat our dreams for stable neighborhoods, good jobs and a just quality of life.

We have had our issues. Low and moderate income housing was being torn down. We wanted rehab. The factories were leaving the city. We wanted jobs. The cost of health care was rising. We wanted quality health care available in our communities at prices we could afford. The schools grew worse every year. We wanted quality education.

We have also had ideas. We had solutions to many problems. And we organized and fought for our issues and ideas. But again we were delayed and frustrated, winning only small victories. The political power of this city and this country is controlled each election by parties that present no program of action. They present promises. But they present no detailed program of action.

And yet all the time a *program*, developed by and subscribed to by the majority of the people, would have been our most powerful weapon. We are not talking about a program on a piece of paper. We are talking about a program that reflects the experience and struggle of people in the communities. We are talking about a program that people discuss and fight over in every community until there is a massive agreement on its points by all the people of the communities. This process of developing a people's program can't be left until election time. It has to go on day in and day out, until we get it right.

Then when we have a people's program we will not be able to be divided by politicians and slick financial interests. We will know what we want – together – which is the way we are the strongest. And we will not be tricked and promised out of our legitimate right to control the government because either the candidates will commit themselves to the program and carry it out or they will be removed and replaced. Developing a people's program from the communities will help create lasting serious organization and organizational unity. It is a weapon we have been without. We have been without our most powerful weapon.

The National Association of Neighborhoods call for neighborhood platform conventions in every congressional district, leading to a national convention of the neighborhoods in

November, couldn't have come at a better time. Local conventions will take place in at least six of Chicago's seven congressional districts. At these conventions the people of the communities will begin the process of hammering out both a city-wide and a national people's platform. Then Chicago delegates will join with delegates from 100 other congressional districts in Louisville in November to come up with the first national platform of this country's communities in recent history.

The grassroots is getting into action.

EITHER REBUILD THE COUNTRY FOR AND FROM ITS COMMUNITIES, OR WATCH IT CRUMBLE!

After long discussions with community residents in Chicago and throughout the country, we are proposing here some basic points in a national program of the communities. Over the next two years, we believe the process of working and reworking this program with the people of this country's communities will change it and deepen it. But these points represent to us a good starting place. We are saying in many ways that this country must either plan and develop its economy and social programs from the point of view of the people of the communities, or crumble. The future is in the people's hands.

Employment

We are told that unemployment in our communities, our number one problem, is caused because industry is leaving the city. Industry *is* leaving many cities, but it does not take new job opportunities with it. When a big manufacturing plant like International Harvester leaves Chicago and opens up in the far suburbs, the south or the Sun Belt, it uses the move as an excuse to automate and many fewer workers are required. Unemployment in Dallas, the heart of the Sun Belt, is rising, just as it is in Chicago. Labor intensive operations move out of the country altogether.

While manufacturing corporations take advantage of tax breaks, tax write-offs, tax loopholes and weaker unions in other areas, to move out, the truth is also that there are less and less jobs in manufacturing and construction. In 1900, 10 percent of Chicago's jobs were in the service sector, 90 percent in manufacturing and construction. Today, 67 percent of Chicago's jobs are in the service industries and only 33 percent are in manufacturing. But service industries include many things and the government of this country has done nothing to direct what *kind* of service industry is developed. The service industry can include improving houses, education and health care as well as selling insurance and advertising. These are jobs not subject to the automation of the manufacturing industries.

The control of both types of industry by monopolistic multi-nationals is responsible for the development of these industries in directions which neither provide jobs in our communities nor provide the services and goods our communities need at prices we can afford. When they get as big and powerful as they have become, they endanger the public good and should be regulated and directed.

continued on next page

Program For *Employment*

continued from last page

1. Control of runaway

1. Control of runaway industry. Eliminate tax breaks, and government subsidies which assist runaway shops, protect the rights of workers to adequate notice and enact penalties to be paid by runaway corporations to the communities they abandon.

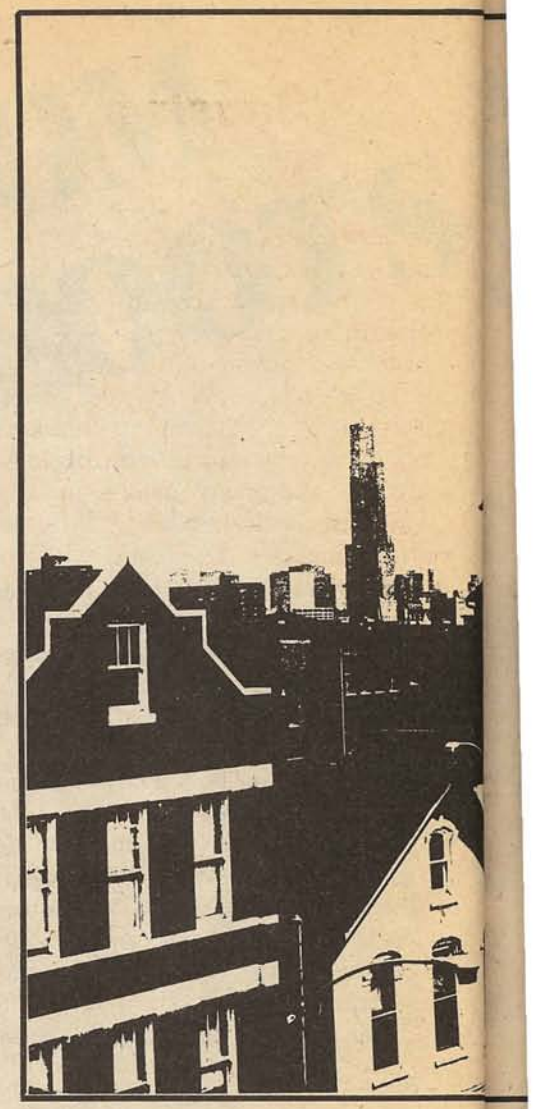
2. A head tax on U.S. corporations operating in foreign countries equal to the difference between the labor costs in those operations and the labor costs calculated at prevailing U.S. wages.

3. Federal assistance to the development of community controlled public service corporations and federal regulation of financial institutions encouraging the extension of credit to such corporations. A public service corporation can be established in a community area based on first a needs assessment, and then a program assessment detailing what services need to be provided in a community. Under the direction of a locally elected community board, with federal and federally directed private financing these public service corporations would hire from the community to provide the services the community needs.

4. Nationalization of the big oil and food monopolies under the direction of national and state boards with strong consumer representation.

5. Organization and development of a national youth community service corps, under the direction of community elected boards, for youth between 16 and 25, for two years of service and job training in the communities where they live.

6. Nationalization of the defense industry and the gradual shift of jobs and resources in that industry to public community controlled service corporations and a national youth community service corps.



Health Care

Health Care, from the communities' point of view, is in a triple crisis. First, it costs too much. One hospitalization can wipe out a lifetime of savings. Second, preventative, day to day care is not available in our communities by and large. So we end up paying double for treatment when disease has gone untreated and we have to be hospitalized. And three, the health care profession is becoming more and more specialized and professionalized so that getting into the health care field takes years of expensive education and as a patient you are often confronted with a left ear lobe specialist who cannot help you with the pain in your right ear.

The community's program will call for a preventative health care system available to every resident of the U.S., free or at prices they can afford, quality hospitalization when necessary without financial blackmail and restructuring the health employment field to train more paramedics, nurse practitioners and family practice doctors. It will demand release of our medical survival and resources for our medical survival from the giant research universities, the drug company magnates and the insurance companies. Finally, it will recognize that both the Carter and Kennedy national health insurance programs are designed to make millions of dollars for the insurance companies, while allowing the health industry to develop for profit and not for the needs of

Housing

The housing market now has the biggest effect on inflation for the average person in this country. It is totally unregulated. It provides a base for the biggest racket and misuse of public funds this country has ever seen.

This administration has failed to recognize dislocation having a major effect on the housing market. Continual dislocation now affects low, moderate and many middle income people, especially families and people on fixed incomes. The scourge of real estate speculation and windfall profits from condominium conversions, rip-offs of federal programs allegedly aimed to benefit low and moderate income residents falls of course most heavily, on minorities and low-income people generally. The real estate speculation market is destroying community after community as it profits from the turn over of a low-income population to a moderate-income population and again from the turn over of a moderate-income population to a middle income population and yet again of a middle income population to an upper income population. Federal programs, started in the Nixon years and continued through Carter, encourage private investors to participate, without restricting them from gaining the higher profits of developing middle and upper income housing, replacing the residents the program was intended for.

The program of this country's communities demands that our housing be taken out of the hands of speculators and dealmakers.

Program

1. Regulation of real estate speculation. Levy to 95 percent taxation on profits from the sale of real estate that increases the value of property without substantially upgrading it. A similar tax on property that is developed resulting in substantial dislocation of low and moderate income residents.

2. A massive federally funded scattered site public housing initiative aimed at communities threatened by speculators, to anchor the development of the neighborhood for low and moderate income and minority residents.

3. Tight regulations on Section 8 and FHA and other federally supported development programs would guarantee that the developments serve low, moderate and minority residents and continue to serve them for 20 years.

4. A national rent increase freeze until the rate of inflation returns to 1970 levels.

5. Direct federal funding support and federal regulations that direct private credit extensions for the development of tenant cooperatively owned buildings.

6. Federal assistance only to rehab efforts that do not substantially dislocate low and moderate income and minority residents or substantially raise their rents.

7. Requirement that CD funds to NSA areas be approved by locally elected NSA community boards, empowered to plan for the coordination of all publicly funded housing and community development programs in the neighborhood strategy areas.

people.

Program

1. Development of a national Health Service, as described in Congressman Dellums' bill, providing a ring of clinics circling public hospitals, aimed at preventative health. These clinics should be established in areas designated by criteria of need, under the firm direction of community elected boards. In the event some form of national health insurance goes into effect, it must be tied to at least the minimum development of a national health service. Financial support from benefitting insurance companies should be mandatory.

2. The development of a National Public Schools Health Corps to insure that preventative health care delivery and health education are brought into the public schools as a first priority.

3. The re-direction of public funding and grants to medical schools to insure training of paramedics, nurse practitioners and family practice oriented doctors.

4. Regulation of production and distribution of drugs such as amphetamines and barbituates which are now drastically overproduced in relation to diagnosed medical need and end up abused on the street.

5. Federal cost controls on hospital expenses, with penalties on hospitals which raise costs in order to accomplish building and real estate expansion not designated by the medical needs of the surrounding community.

6. The development of occupational health and safety programs throughout industry, paid for by violating corporations similiar to the recently revised black lung legislation, with enforcement and implementation of regulations guided by the workers affected by occupational health hazards.

Education

The people's program will demand that immediate steps be taken to stop the deterioration of the public schools system in our communities and improve the quality of education. The public schools face two problems throughout: 1.) Lack of adequate resources in schools located in Black, Latino and poor and working class areas generally. And 2.) the development of bureaucracies in control of the schools which spend less and less money on direct educational services and impose impractical bureaucratic methods on teachers which only make their jobs harder.

The number one focus of the people's program must be to equalize funding at all public schools across the nation and put more money into public school funding overall. The second focus must be to demand more community influence in the schools in order to offset the bureaucrats.

Program

1. Eliminate local property taxes as the primary source of funding for public education, replacing it with Federal taxes. Then insure that an equal dollar per student amount goes to every school in the nation, with an additional special funding available for schools with disadvantaged students.

Welfare

Present welfare subsistence payments are well below the poverty level and inadequate to insure survival. In addition, states are developing and interpreting regulations that cut hundreds of thousands of legitimate welfare recipients from the rolls temporarily or permanently in order to save money. The people's program calls for a guaranteed annual income, adequate to survive with dignity, for those who cannot work, cannot find work and those women involved in

Crime

The people's program will define four main factors in the problem of crime that confronts our communities. First, the criminal justice system itself is inhumane and falls short of minimal standards of justice. The plea-bargaining practices in the courts, following on the heels of quota systems among police that lead to arrests mainly of people formerly arrested, lead to the prisons which offer no rehabilitation and are training grounds for further criminal activity. The criminal justice system must be reformed because now it is a major cause of crime.

Second, the people's program must focus on drugs. The illegal marketplace of drug sales is the necessary environment for the majority of the crime that attacks our community.

And third, this country must undertake a massive youth employment program, to provide some alternative to young people between the ages of 16 and 25, where now a life of crime is the only possible alternative.

Program

1. The immediate establishment of a federal civil rights commission to investigate the criminal justice systems of each state and empowered to require reforms.

2. Stricter laws on the sale of drugs, especially in large quantities.

3. Restrictions on the overproduction of drugs not necessary for medical needs.

4. The development of a National Youth Community Service Corps. (See employment program.)

the difficult labor of raising children without other means of support.

At the same time, the development of a National Youth Community Service Corps and community service corporations will make possible meaningful work for those who can work, gradually taking them off the welfare rolls.

Program

1. Raise the standard of public aid payments to insure at least the nationally defined poverty level.

2. Equalize public aid payments throughout all counties and states.

3. Develop and monitor the implementation of policies and regulations only with the assistance of welfare recipients, carrying out the intent of the public aid mandates.

Foreign Involvements

The multi-national interests of this country's giant corporations have already cost us the misery and injustice of Vietnam. It is time that our communities stop paying the price of a foreign policy dictated by those same interests in Puerto Rico, recognized by the world as a colony of the U.S. The U.S.'s resistance to the Puerto Rican independence struggle should not be paid for out of our community.

Similarly, resources and people from our communities should not go to protect racist South African regimes or their fronts from the just independence struggles of the South African majorities.

Finally, this country should end the policy of conferring special favors on immigrants it brings here as refugees from fallen dictatorships we have incorrectly supported. The government continues to persecute and deny equal rights to people driven out of their own countries and who come here without papers in search of work and survival. These are the victims of U.S. corporation's international drives.

There are plenty of problems to solve in our own communities. We need not concern ourselves with maintaining a structure of world domination that allows the multinationals to attempt to gleen profits from the whole human race.

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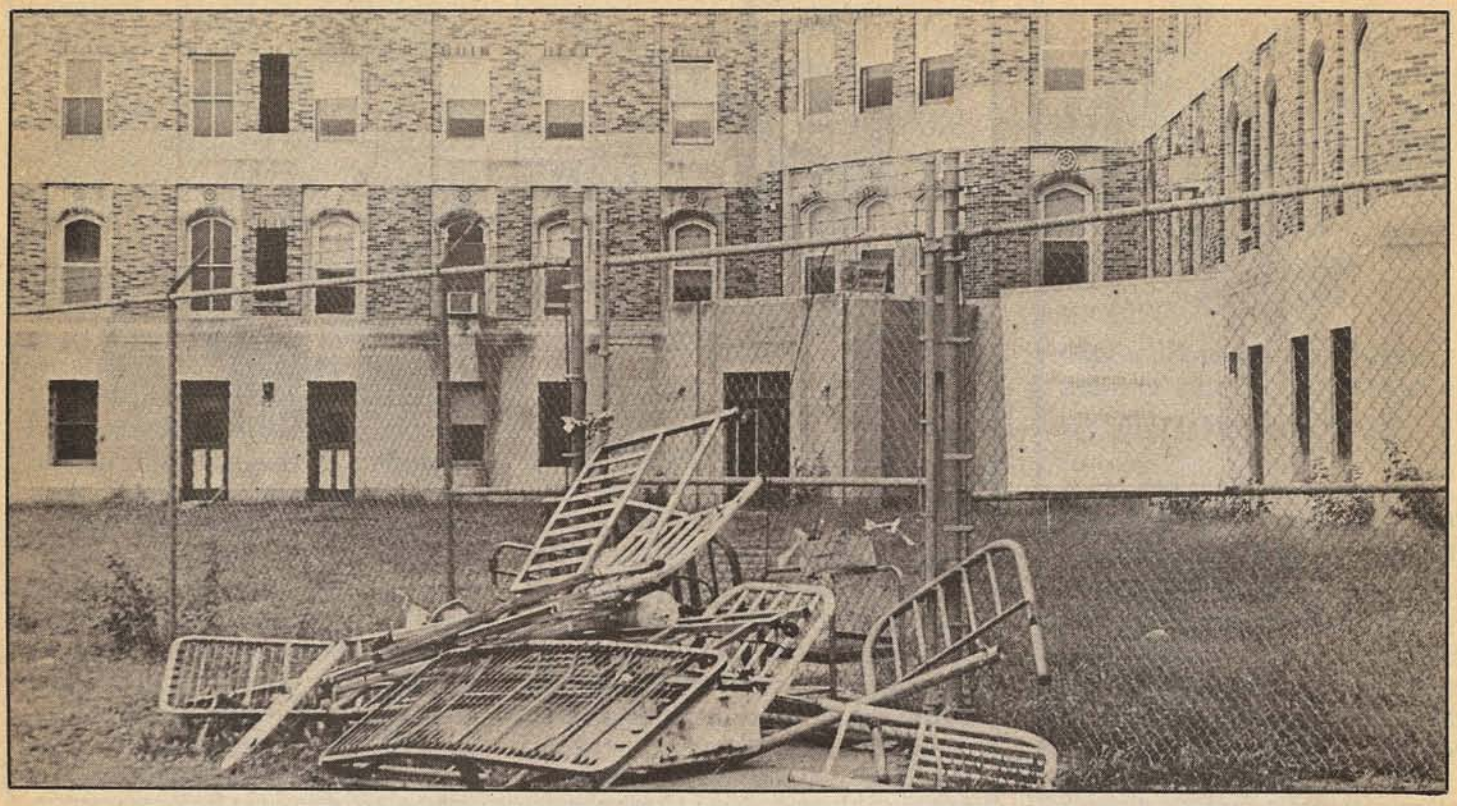

Homer Phillips — The Final Hour

St. Louis Masterplan Forces Closing Of Black Hospital

(St. Louis, Missouri) On August 17, 1979 more than 250 riot-equipped police descended on Homer G. Phillips Hospital on St. Louis' predominantly Black north side, as the last 60 patients were removed and transported to City Hospital Number One on the south side. Angry Black community residents, local aldermen, clergy and medical workers protested the closing of the hospital which threatens to leave more than 96,000 north side residents, mainly Black, without a community hospital. Many pitched tents and stayed all night to block the removal of medical equipment from the Black city hospital which has gained a national and international reputation since its opening in 1937. Dozens of protesters were arrested and one nurse severely beaten by the police. The shutdown of the hospital came on the orders of St. Louis Mayor James Conway who told the public it was part of a "consolidation" plan to save the city $7 million. From now on Homer Phillips would offer limited emergency room service and outpatient care. St. Louis alderwoman Mary Ross calls it a "glorified first aid station."

Across the city Black and poor people see the closing of Homer Phillips as part of the masterplan which has been driving people out of the city while downtown St. Louis is redeveloped for the banks and businesses and north St. Louis is abandoned to make way for the industry. Civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory who has been in St. Louis to join the daily marches and rallies demanding the reopening of the hospital told KEEP STRONG, "The closing of Homer Phillips is bigger than St. Louis, it's the whole country. There's been more than 200 hospitals shut down across the U.S. — Washington, Detroit, Philadelphia, San Antonio, New York and now they're talking about shutting down Cook County in Chicago."

The history of Homer Phillips Hospital goes back to the flu epidemic in St. Louis in 1919. At that time, there was a critical need for Black nurses to take care of Black patients who were housed in the basement of Max C. Starkloff Hospital (City One) on the south side of St. Louis. In the 1930's, through the efforts of a dynamic young Black civil rights lawyer, Homer G. Phillips, the city of St. Louis passed a bond issue to provide funds to build a city hospital for Black people living in north St. Louis. Phillips was mysteriously assassinated in 1931 but

in 1937 the city opened the hospital at 2601 N. Whittier and named it in his memory.

Since 1937 the hospital has trained thousands of Black doctors and nurses, especially during a time when segregation meant that Blacks were not admitted to white medical schools such as Washington University and St. Louis University. Today the hospital continues training Black doctors from Howard University and Meherry Medical College.

As St. Louis developed, medical institutions played a leading role in the city's economy. Today St. Louis has 16 private, voluntary hospitals, including 2 private university hospitals. Hospital and medical related work is the third largest source of employment in the city. At one time Homer Phillips provided more than 1,000 jobs and was the largest employer of unskilled Black workers in St. Louis.

Closing Homer Phillips is part of the St. Louis masterplan to drive Black and poor people out of the city.

Unlike City Hospital One, Homer Phillips never affiliated with either Washington University or St. Louis University Medical School. Doctors at the hospital, under the leadership of Dr. Eugene Mitchell, also the owner and publisher of the St. Louis Argus, believed that a formal affiliation with a predominantly White medical school would threaten the autonomy of Homer Phillips as a Black medical institution. The Black hospital never signed a contract with the universities and neither school sends their medical students there to do an internship or residency.

In the 1960's St. Louis, like many cities, began to suffer a major loss of population, business and money. The "salvation" plan proposed to develop the city as a major convention and tourist center and provide headquarters for major corporations like Ralston Purina, Pet Milk, and McDonnell Douglas. Plans also had to be made to attract industry to the city which would mean clearing out some traditional residential areas.

The city's "benign neglect" of Homer Phillips became obvious particularly to workers at the hospital. One St. Louis nurse recalls the shortage of basic supplies like soap and blankets. "We just brought those things from home. When we used to have the psychiatric ward they didn't give us enough dresses for the ladies. So when they were taking a bath, we'd wash out their dresses, roll them in newspapers and put them on the radiator to dry so they'd have something clean to wear."

Willie Mae Reedus, now a nurse in Chicago, graduated from Homer Phillips School of Nursing in 1968. "Mine was the last class," she said, "and that was a sign that things were beginning to close down." She feels that the slow move towards integration and the city's plan to clear the north side and move Blacks out to the county meant that the city didn't need Homer Phillips like they did in 1937. When Willie Mae went back to St. Louis recently, she noticed the boarded up buildings, vacant lots and abandoned homes on the north side. "I wondered what was going to happen to the area because when we were in training that was considered to be part of the better neighborhoods."

In the early 1970's, the Civic Progress Association, a blue-ribbon commission representing the top St. Louis businesses announced the Team Four Plan. Although the study never mentioned Homer Phillips specifically, it did foreshadow the closing of the hospital. Team 4 divided St. Louis into areas that could be "saved, redeveloped preserved and abandoned." Team 4 recommended that north St. Louis become an industrial area and designated

Civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory marches with St. Louis aldermen Mary Ross and Freeman Bosley to demand that the city re-open Homer Phillips Hospital.

Homer G. Phillips (left), a dynamic civil rights lawyer, played the leading role in forcing the city of St. Louis to build the north side hospital which opened in 1937. Since the hospital's closing in August, the emergency room (shown above) is staffed by two psychiatrists and has no surgeon on the weekends. Alderwoman Mary Ross (right) calls it a "glorified first aid station."

for abandonment. As Black people moved out to north St. Louis county (another trend predicted by Team 4), use of the hospital would decline and the city could justify closing it down.

Many St. Louis residents believe the city's plans include turning Homer Phillips into a jail. David Johnson, a Black worker, believes "St. Louis University bought the property. The city's probably planning to make it a city jail or just destroy the whole property surrounding it." Mayor Conway and other officials deny the plans but the federal courts ordered St. Louis to build a new jail by 1980. St. Louis voters have twice defeated a bond issue to finance it, and while Conway has not publically discussed his plans, U.S. Missouri Senator Giles reports that the mayor "still has it under consideration."

Last month the St. Louis masterplan approached a turning point. Mayor Conway announced that the city was ready to build a major north-south distributor highway which city residents knew had been in the plans for years. The major Highway will cut straight through parts of north and south St. Louis forcing families and businesses to move. A major study on the impact of the highway called the "Booker Report" has been kept secret by the mayor and the board of aldermen has demanded its release. Aldermen Mary Ross and Freeman Bosely, outspoken critics of the Homer Phillips closing believe the highway is part of the "grand design" to bring industrial development to north St. Louis. "More than 2,000 persons, mainly in the north area face displacement," says Mary Ross. Efforts to get money for housing rehabilitation, or loans for homeowners have resulted in failure. Nobody wants to invest the money because the property might be in the direct path of the new highway. Property values have gone down sharply. The new highway will mainly provide rapid transportation from the north side to downtown St. Louis for the middle class who will work in the new industrial park area.

David Johnson, waiting to see the doctor at City Hospital Number One. "The city is probably planning to make Homer Phillips a jail," he says, "or just destroy the property surrounding it."

Since the hospital closing in August, health services have reached a crisis. The emergency room at Homer Phillips is staffed by two psychiatrists but there is no surgeon or anesthesiologist on duty from 4 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Monday. Members of the Ad Hoc Coalition to Save Homer Phillips report cases of people dying in the process of being transported from Homer G. to City One. Jeanette Herrell, who lives with her family in Soulard, a predominantly poor white area in south St. Louis describes the crisis: "There are a lot of families in these neighborhoods who don't have money or insurance. You used to go to the city hospital and sit for three hours. Now if you're sick or

hurt you'll have to sit for 10 hours. They can't handle it." Despite numerous job openings there is a critical shortage of nurses at City Hospital. All talk about the hospital closing and even uncertainty about City One means that nurses "are just not walking in the door" to get hired.

St. Louis got $3 million from Johnson and Johnson to set up community clinics affiliated with local hospitals. Homer Phillips was not in the plan.

Will the city re-open Homer Phillips Hospital? A federal lawsuit filed by the Ad Hoc Committee to Save Homer Phillips Hospital charges that the closing of the hospital has a "disparate impact" on the Black community living in north St. Louis because of the extra time in distance patients have to travel to City One. The lawsuit asks the Office of Civil Rights to do a complete investigation of the entire St. Louis health and hospital delivery system and to cut off federal funds unless the hospital is re-opened. The case comes to trial in December.

By 1980 more than 50 percent of St. Louis will be Black and in recent years statistics show that more than 25 percent of the city's residents have lived below poverty. The principal users of Homer Phillips and City One are Black and poor White. Plans for medical care in cities like St. Louis will be increasingly controlled by big high-technology hospitals like Barnes, run by multi-million dollar institutions like Washington University. Recently the city received more than $3 million from the Johnson & Johnson Corp. to set up community clinics affiliated with local hospitals. Homer Phillips is not in the plan.

Opponents of the hospital closing are boycotting downtown St. Louis businesses, banks and department stores, but particularly Budweiser Beer manufactured by Anheuser Busch. The Busch family is a major campaign contributor to Mayor Conway and belongs to Civic Progress which master-minded the Team 4 Plan and the north side distributor highway. Amos Brake, an elderly resident of south St. Louis thinks it was wrong to close Homer Phillips. "They shouldn't close it down. We need it. They should keep it open. If we stop buying downtown and boycott Busch maybe that will force the mayor to keep it open." In the face of the masterplan he knows the people need a program for quality health care. "We need these hospitals. City Hospital can't take care of everyone. □

For Jeanette Herrell and her family in south St. Louis the closing of Homer Phillips means up to a 10-hour wait in the emergency room at City Number One.

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New FBI Charter — Raises Old Fears

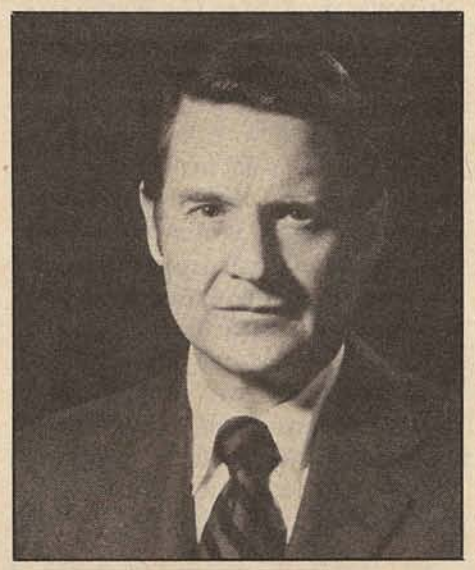
A Report From The Chicago Committee To Defend The Bill Of Rights

(Washington, D.C.) The post-Watergate exposés of FBI break-ins, mail covers, wiretaps, infiltration of peaceful groups, and disruption programs targeted against leading dissidents is finally producing action in Congress. The question is, will Congress strictly prohibit the FBI and other intelligence agencies from interfering in the political lives of people, or will Congress "legalize" these abuses under the guise of protecting the national security and preventing terrorism?

Recent events show that the FBI remains unreformed and unrepentant about its past and current abuses of democratic rights. The Bureau has launched an all-out campaign in the courts and the Congress to prevent real controls from being instituted. For example, despite the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA) which provide public access to federal government files, those who attempt to get their own FBI files find it's like pulling teeth to get the FBI to cooperate. In addition, FBI Director William Webster sent a proposal to the Congress in June that would gut the FOIA entirely, making it almost impossible for people to discover FBI wrongdoing. Another example is the FBI's ongoing fight to conceal the identity of all undercover informants. The Attorney General recently defied a court order ordering him to reveal the names of undercover agents who spied on the Socialist Workers Party. Cover-up remains the rule.

The most important effort by the FBI to resist reform and gain legitimacy for the abuses they have carried out in the past is the new FBI charter bill, S.1612/HR.5030. The people must put massive public pressure on the Congress to strengthen the charter bill to make it a real control of the FBI, not a permission list.

FBI Director William Webster sent a proposal to Congress making it almost impossible for people to discover FBI wrongdoing.



The new FBI charter proposed by director William Webster (above) does little to protect the public from illegal activities carried out by the agency when it was under J. Edgar Hoover's (below) command.

Some of the major weaknesses of the new FBI charter are:

- It contains no meaningful penalties, so it cannot be enforced;
- There are inadequate restrictions on the use of intrusive investigative techniques, such as placing informers in organizations and establishing mail covers; the bill merely assigns responsibility for these acts to the Attorney General;
- It allows undercover agents to engage in criminal activity;
- It expands the FBI's authority to intrude into private affairs by allowing it to obtain bank account records, credit data, telephone records, and insurance information simply by issuing an investigative demand;
- It does not specifically outlaw COINTELPRO-type disruptive activities, such as that directed against the Black Panther Party.
- It increases FBI secrecy, preventing any real check on the Bureau's activities by the Congress or the public, by authorizing destruction of files after 10 years, and setting no meaningful system of outside oversight of the FBI's activities.

Legislative controls, including passage of a strong charter, will be important to future citizen efforts to fight back against police state methods of the intelligence agencies. In addition, lawsuits seeking court orders against political spying, such as the Alliance to End Repression's suit here in Chicago, are important tools in the fight to defend democratic rights.

Lawsuits like the one in Chicago have already been very effective in exposing wrongdoing by local and national intelligence agencies. Attorneys for the Alliance suit, which includes the ACLU and other public interest groups, recently obtained 22 volumes of secret files from the Chicago FBI

office's COINTELPRO, or disruption, files. The files disclosed Chicago FBI plans to secretly sabotage the U.S. Presidential campaign of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Benjamin Spock, to manipulate a Chicago NAACP election, to attempt to change the nature and leadership of the Nation of Islam, to create splits within the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and to cancel a Mohammad Ali boxing match.

The ongoing effort to reform and reorganize the federal criminal code also will have great impact on the role of the FBI. The fight, originally aimed at the Nixon Administration's attempt to pass a police-state criminal code (remember Senate Bill One?) continues to prevent any legislation from expanding the police powers of the federal government. Congress may pass new laws to repress dissent and public demonstrations, infringing upon the freedom of the press to investigate government wrongdoing, and setting the criminal justice system back by creating longer sentences and taking away rights of the accused.

The people must pressure Congress to strengthen the charter to make it a real control of the FBI, not a permission list.

The main actors in Congress on both the FBI charter and the criminal code legislation, are the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. Senator Edward Kennedy has betrayed his liberal image and introduced the FBI charter bill as well as a rewrite of the old Nixon criminal code — it's new number is S. 1722. Congressman Robert F. Drinan has drafted a new criminal code bill in the House, not yet introduced, which is in great danger of being amended to merge with S.1722. □

by Rachel Rosen DeGolia

Rachel Rosen DeGolia is Executive Director of the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights.

Protect your rights. Write your Senator and Congressperson to oppose a repressive criminal code bill, and to work for an FBI charter which will keep the FBI in the business of law enforcement and out of the political affairs of the people.

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Talk Of New Truck Shutdown

(Los Angeles) At truckstops around the country, independent truckers are talking about having another national shutdown this fall, and vow to make it effective and longer than the last stoppage in June.

In Los Angeles, the largest owner-operator group, the Independent Truckers Association (ITA), blasted the 6 point proposal offered by the Carter administration in the wake of this spring's shutdown as "promises, crumbs and peanuts."

Under the plan, truckers were allowed to add a 6.5 percent surcharge on each trip. The administration pledged support for equal weight and length requirements in all states during fuel emergencies, created a Task Force to look into the problems of owner-operators and guaranteed the safety of truckers who continue driving during any truckers' action.

The September issue of *Overdrive* magazine, published by the ITA, says one-half of the independents will be able to use a surcharge and for those who can it does not begin to cover the recent hikes in fuel prices. Other points of the proposal were denounced for being vague and offering nothing concrete to truckers.

In the same issue, the ITA lashed out at the news media for inaccurate reporting and criticized "startimers" — truckers who like to get their name in print and then sell out to the government. "It was partly understandable in 1974 because independent truckers were not 'wise' to how the government would find the very weakest people to deal and 'negotiate' with, so they could sell out truckers," the magazine wrote. "They didn't understand how the government would grind up all the startimers and spit them out. In Washington, they do it wholesale, and in June, 1979, they did it again and again."

Truckers say they are making up for losses incurred in spring's shutdown, which involved an estimated 80 percent of the country's 120,000 owner-operators. Many say they would be in a position to strike again some time this fall. □

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Mistrial Declared In Huey Newton Trial

(Oakland, Calif.) The state of California's fifth prosecution of Black Panther Party President Huey P. Newton for murder ended Tuesday September 25 on the same note as the four previous ones.

After taking four days and three ballots the twelve-member jury that heard the case announced it was deadlocked 11 to 1 for acquittal and a mistrial was declared. The mistrial decision takes on added importance in light of the defense decision in mid-trial not to present a defense. The only witnesses called by Mr. Newton's attorneys testified that he had known the man for many years (Buie had become the state's principal eye witness) and that Buie was known widely on the streets of Oakland as a police informant and undercover cop. Observers in the courtroom had commented during the trial that the jury appeared skeptical as the prosecutor called on a battery of prostitutes and pimps that placed Newton at the scene of the 1974 murder of Kathleen Smith.

The latest prosecution came on the heels of another mistrial on the same charge. Following a month-long trial, a mistrial was declared on March 24 in Alameda County Superior Court after the jury said it was hopelessly deadlocked. After three days of deliberations the sequestered jury reported that they had taken three votes and each time had voted 10 to 2 for acquittal. Under California law, there must be a unanimous verdict from a jury in criminal cases.

The turning point in the March trial came when Michelle Jenkins, a friend of the murdered prostitute Kathleen Smith, recanted her earlier testimony that she saw Huey shoot Smith on an Oakland corner in the early morning hours of August 6, 1974. Eleven days after she testified for the prosecution against Huey, Jenkins returned to the stand, this time as a defense witness and said she had lied in her previous testimony. Under oath Ms. Jenkins told the court that she had lied because the Oakland Police Department and the district attorney's office had threatened to put her in jail for prostitution if she failed to implicate Newton in the murder.

BPINS photo

Huey P. Newton addresses press conference at Alameda County Courthouse. The state of California's fifth prosecution of the Black Panther Party President for murder ended in a mistrial on September 25.

In the second trial the defense decided that there was no need to put on a lengthy defense (which would have been exactly the same as the previous one) implying that the case would be decided primarily on the merits of the prosecution. The jury's decision, that there was reasonable doubt of Mr. Newton's guilt, proved the defense strategy to be correct and discredited the Alameda County district attorney's office once again.

Upon reading their report, many of the jurors approached Mr. Newton and shook his hand. Sources close to the Black Panther Party point to the fact that the state and federal governments have never been able to sustain a conviction against Mr. Newton in five major attempts. Many believe that each of the five trials, and volumes of negative publicity, have questioned the credibility of Mr. Newton's Party, as well as himself. However, each time a jury of American citizens has been able to examine the facts, the state's prosecutions have fallen apart.

In a related matter, attorneys for Black Panther Party member Johnny Spain gave oral arguments on Tuesday September 25 in support of their motion to overturn Mr. Spain's 1976 conviction in the San Quentin Six trial. Appearing before a three judge panel of the California Court of Appeals, attorneys from the state public defender's office explained that during the 1976 trial, the longest of its kind in U.S. history, a juror met privately with the judge on more than one occasion. Neither the defendants nor their counsel had knowledge of these meetings or their subjects until the trial was over. The attorneys, as part of their motion, argued that the chaining and shackling of all six defendants in the original trial acted to prejudice the jury, by projecting that they were a violent and immediate threat to society. The panel has 90 days to make its decision. Spokesmen for the Black Panther Party as well as Mr. Spain's attorneys are confident that the judges will vote to overturn the conviction. A representative from Amnesty International was present during the defense arguments. The group has stated its intention of filing a report on Mr. Spain's status as a political prisoner after the appeals panel has made its decision. □

The Duke Is Nuked

America's film hero, John "Duke" Wayne, died a victim of radiation from U.S. atomic fallout. His death and the deaths of his co-stars in the movie, "The Conqueror," have been linked to an open-air atomic test explosion in 1953. The explosion took place shortly before the movie was filmed in St. George, Utah, the site of the nation's worst radiation fallout.

Wayne, co-star Susan Hayward, Agnes Moorehead, Dick Powell, and the bulk of the top production people of the movie have all fallen to forms of cancer following film work near the Nevada open-air testing range.

The cancer and death rate is also very high for other people who worked on the film. The victims include members of an Indian tribe hired to work on the movie.

The location of the movie, which was based upon Genghis Khan's conquests in Asia, was in the main fallout zone of one of America's first nuclear accidents – an explosion known as "Dirty Harry." "Dirty Harry" was one of 87 open-air nuclear tests conducted in the nearby Nevada test range between 1951 and 1962.

A sudden wind change before detonation at 5:05 a.m. on May 19, 1953 sent clouds of radiation over St. George and the cast of "The Conqueror."

Although "Dirty Harry" was detonated atop a 300 foot tower, at 5:05 a.m., documents show that test officials ordered no precautions for local residents until 9:25, hours after the fallout had settled on the area. Most people in the area were never warned at all because "it would create a disturbance" and "it would not take much to start wild rumors," according to Atomic Energy Commission memos obtained recently through the Freedom of Information Act by newspapers.

The link to Wayne's death comes at a time when 700 longtime residents of St. George are filing lawsuits against the federal government over the effects of the radiation fallout on the community between 1951 and 1962.

Erna Thomas, grandmother and local resident of St. George, has become a vocal critic of the government's neglect and an advocate of compensation for the victims.

"When too many people seemed to be dying around me from cancer, I

decided to do a check of neighbors in just a one-block radius of my home. I was surprised when the figure got to nine. Now the number is 30, either with cancer or dead from it," she reports.

Like the people of St. George, the cast of "The Conqueror" was unaware of the atomic tests. One of the few surviving co-stars, veteran Western actor Lee Van Cleef, said that, "We never talked about it at all. Nobody really knows what causes these things (sic.) but I guess if I was going to get it, I would have it by now. It has been some time since I had a cancer check, but maybe I ought to get one now."

Ironically, the producers of the film not only selected a site contaminated by radioactivity, but transported tons of the red earth back to a Hollywood set where work on the movie continued for two more years.

A promotional brochure for the movie boasts about the tragic miscalculation, saying "The caravan of big trucks and trailers began rolling in, unloading and going back to the studio for more props for the sets. But they didn't return to Hollywood empty – they went back with tons of Utah's red earth to be used to make exterior scenes filmed at the studio."

A check of the major stars and crew of the six million dollar Howard Hughes/RKO Radio production epic shows the common tragic legacy. John Wayne fell to his second bout with cancer this year despite the best efforts of modern medicine and Wayne's courageous fight.

Susan Hayward succumbed to a malignant brain tumor in March, 1975.

Dick Powell was claimed by a malignant brain tumor in October, 1963.

Agnes Moorehead, like Hayward and Powell, was stricken by a malignant brain tumor and died in April, 1974.

Character actor Pedro Armendariz committed suicide in June, 1963 at UCLA Medical Center after learning he had acute lymph gland cancer. Art director Carroll Clark died of emphysema in 1973, but his widow said he had prostate cancer also. Production manager Harold Lewis was taken by cancer as was his wife, who accompanied him on location. One newspaper reported that it was difficult to identify any deaths of the cast and crew that were not cancer-related.

Calculation of the tragedy may never be complete, since "The Conqueror", a Hollywood epic, boasted a cast of thousands.□

By Joe Barr
Reprinted from No Nukes News

Dr. Agostinho Neto led the Angolan people in their struggle for independence from Portugal.

In Memoriam

Dr. Agostinho Neto

President of the People's Republic of Angola

Dr. Agostinho Neto, the 56-year old physician, poet and leader of his country's successful struggle for independence from almost 500 years of Portuguese colonial rule, died of cancer September 10, 1979.

Agostinho Neto, the son of a Methodist minister, became active against colonial occupation of his country when he was a student. He was one of the founders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) in 1954 and helped it to lead a long and difficult struggle for Angolan independence, including 14 years of war. Neto never accepted what privileges he might have attained as a doctor in a poor country. Instead, he chose to fight. He was the object of unsuccessful assassination attempts, was jailed twice and escaped to help lead Angola's war of independence. He always believed in and practiced mutual cooperation among liberation forces.

The MPLA fought the Portuguese dictatorship which was backed by South Africa, Britain, West Germany and the United States in the form of troops, sophisticated weapons, and billions of dollars. The CIA's "secret war" in Angola during the 1970's, designed to protect the interests of multinational corporations in this mineral rich country, failed to topple the newly independent government.

Today, Angola (which the U.S. still refuses to recognize) continues to face U.S. and South African efforts to penetrate the country. Bombing raids continued in 1979. The people of Angola who achieved independence in 1975, are now fighting to reconstruct their country based on the MPLA principles of independence which Agostinho Neto described this way:

"It is necessary that the real control of the country, whether from the political, economic or social point of view, be in the hands of the people who are devoted to the struggle, and not in the fists of bureaucrats...Much less could we allow foreigners to continue to exploit our people. We have to fight for complete independence."

Nonaligned Nations Meet In Havana — Two-Thirds of World Represented

(Havana, Cuba) Representatives of more than one and a half billion people comprising 95 countries and a number of movements for national independependence, met here in September at the 6th conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations.

Founded 18 years ago (in 1961), to give the smaller and poorer countries of the world a voice in international affairs, the very different countries in the Nonaligned Movement established principles of unity which have lasted through the years despite differences, and were reaffirmed at this conference. They are: to maintain their independence, to support peoples fighting for sovereignty, to strengthen cooperation among members, and to work for greater international economic equality.

New members this year were Pakistan, Bolivia, Grenada, the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, Iran and Bolivia. They joined the politically very diverse Movement which includes nations as different in philosophy and policy as Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Singapore, Tanzania and India.

The range of issues discussed was very broad — from general statements of political views on the international order, to specific resolutions on particular situations. Most U.S. press, however, did not report on the economic issues which were very critical. One significant step was a preliminary agreement between the oil producing countries of OPEC and the poorer countries which must import oil. (Both groupings belong to the Movement.) They agreed to meet and try to work out adjustments in prices and supplies for those countries which suffer the greatest economic hardships in international trade.

Tanzania's President Julius Nyerere and Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat. Nyerere is a founder of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations established in 1961 to give smaller and poorer countries in the world a voice in international affairs.

The "sudden" discovery by the U.S. of Soviet troops in Cuba was part of an attempt to undermine the conference.

Other issues at the conference included a strong recommitment to maintaining the independence of all nations and against colonialism in any form. There was specific support of Palestinian self-determination. Compromise was reached on two issues due to sharp divisions. Neither delegation representing Kampuchea (Cambodia) was seated. Egypt was not suspended for its separate treaty with Israel. A special committee was to investigate further. The Camp David Agreements were condemned.

The U.S. government's policy toward the Nonaligned Movement has almost always been to either attack it or try to split the grouping. When the Movement was founded, U.S. officials claimed that to not be completely in the camp of one of the major powers was to be a threat to the U.S.'s internation-

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Cuban President Fidel Castro in Cuba.

al security.

This year the U.S. worked to divide the very mixed group, and although there are huge differences the conference did not split. Many observers commented that the U.S.'s "sudden discovery" of 2 or 3,000 Soviet troops in Cuba (host of the conference) was part of an attempt to undermine the conference since it appears likely that these troops have been there for some time and certainly represent no military threat to the U.S.. In fact, many conference delegates pointed out that it is the U.S. itself which maintains a military base with many troops on Cuban soil (at Guantanamo Bay).

The purpose of the Nonaligned Movement was summed up by Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania and one of the founders of the Movement:

"We are not a bloc. Our conferences are an assertion of the right of small nations to stay outside all power blocs and to develop according to their own interests as they see them. Our movement is a progressive movement; but it is not a movement of progressive states...From the very beginning our membership has included states which claim an ideological commitment to socialism, those which aspire to build capitalism and some who claim to be neither...

The U.S. worked to divide the very mixed group, but despite huge differences the conference did not split.

"We meet here to assert the validity of the demand for freedom. We seek to promote the elimination of injustices against peoples and nations, regardless of whether these are the result of history or of the continuing political, economic and military domination of the big powers...

"The struggle against imperialism is not over when a nation has won political independence. It will not be won until every nation is free — in the words of the Belgrad Communique (the Movement's founding document) — 'to pursue its own economic, social and cultural development without intimidation or hindrance.' The struggle against imperialism has to continue until the nations of the world are truly and equally interdependent and the international network of domination and dependence had been brought to an end.

"We are very far from that position...We are all small or weak states — usually both... We are all concerned for the right of each state to remain free to determine its own policies, without interference from the superpowers or blocs.

"It is this overwhelming common interest which brought us together, and which demands that we stay together."□

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Puerto Rican Nationalists Freed — Independence Movement Grows

(San Juan, P.R.) Ignited with the spirit of resistance, tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans victoriously celebrated the release of the four Puerto Rican Nationalists: Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Oscar Collazo and Irving Flores Rodriguez. The four Nationalists were greeted by thousands of supporters in major cities across the United States including Chicago, New York and San Francisco. The four, who had been imprisoned for 25 years, were the longest held political prisoners in the western hemisphere. They were released by President Carter last month.

The four Nationalists and a fifth comrade, Andres Figueroa Cordero, who died of cancer six months after his release from prison last year, had been sentenced to 75 years in prison for their armed protest in the U.S. Congress in 1950. In an historic moment three of the Nationalists sprayed gunfire from a gallery overlooking the U.S. House of Representatives, demanding independence for Puerto Rico. International pressure and a mass movement in the United States pressured Carter to release the Nationalists. This included a recent United Nations resolution demanding freedom for the four.

Last month in Chicago the four Nationalists triumphantly greeted an overflow crowd at the First Congregational Church in Humboldt Park. Speaking first to the press, which has historically portrayed the Nationalists as terrorists, Lolita Lebron stated: "With what moral standard do you people have to judge anyone on the question of terror and violence. Who are the real perpetrators of terror and violence in the world and where did this terror and violence come from? Our people know that we have done that which is necessary in a certain moment of life. We hate violence. The world has been hurt so much by the big power policy of the United States." The Nationalists warned supporters that President Carter is eyeing Puerto Rico for a presidential primary. "I tell the president not to go to Puerto Rico to campaign for statehood," Lolita Lebron said.

The Nationalists were "prisoners of war," Rafael Cancel Miranda pointed out. The U.S. government sent marines to Puerto Rico in 1898, invaded the island and took over the population by

The release of the four Puerto Rican Nationalists (from left to right) Irving Flores Rodriguez, Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo and Rafael Cancel Miranda sets the stage for an intensified world-wide campaign for Puerto Rican independence.

brutal violence. Since 1972 the United Nations has recognized Puerto Rico as a colony of the United States.

The release of the Nationalists comes on the eve of the historic Second International Conference of Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico to be held in Mexico City November 30-December 2. More than 400 persons from 125 countries are expected to attend the working conference whose main goal is to organize a world-wide campaign demanding Puerto Rican independence.

Speaking recently in Chicago in support of the international conference, Mexican representative Carlos Aramendo and Puerto Rican delegate Fermin Arraiza condemned the treacherous tactics of the State Department. The government is confusing the people by making the public think that independence is an issue to be decided in the electoral process. Puerto Rico should be granted independence based on the principle of self-determination "in the context of international law."

Resistance to political repression in Puerto Rico has intensified, particularly on the island of Vieques. Since 1940 the Vieques fishermen have waged a militant movement, demanding the total removal of the U.S. Naval base there. The navy occupies the island as a military base and aerial bombing target, and imposes restrictions on the use of land and water by the island's 9,000 residents. This has led to massive unemployment and serious limitations on local agricultural and fishing activities. The daily bombing explosions result in physiological and psychological damage to the island's population, particularly the youth and the elderly.

Since last spring, when hundreds of protesters from the Fishermen's Association and other groups blocked the naval base, 21 persons have been indicted on criminal charges. In an effort to break the growing defense movement, the government has ordered separate trials for the activists. Meanwhile, a strong campaign in Puerto Rico and the United States is mounting to demand total withdrawal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques.

International pressure and a mass movement in the United States pressured Carter to release the Nationalists.

The release of the Nationalists, the case of Vieques and the international conference in Mexico will be the highlights of a week of solidarity with Puerto Rican independence. Activities are planned in major cities across the United States for the week of November 12-29. □

Thousands of supporters from the Puerto Rican, Mexican and other progressive communities victoriously celebrated the release of the four Nationalists at rallies across the country.

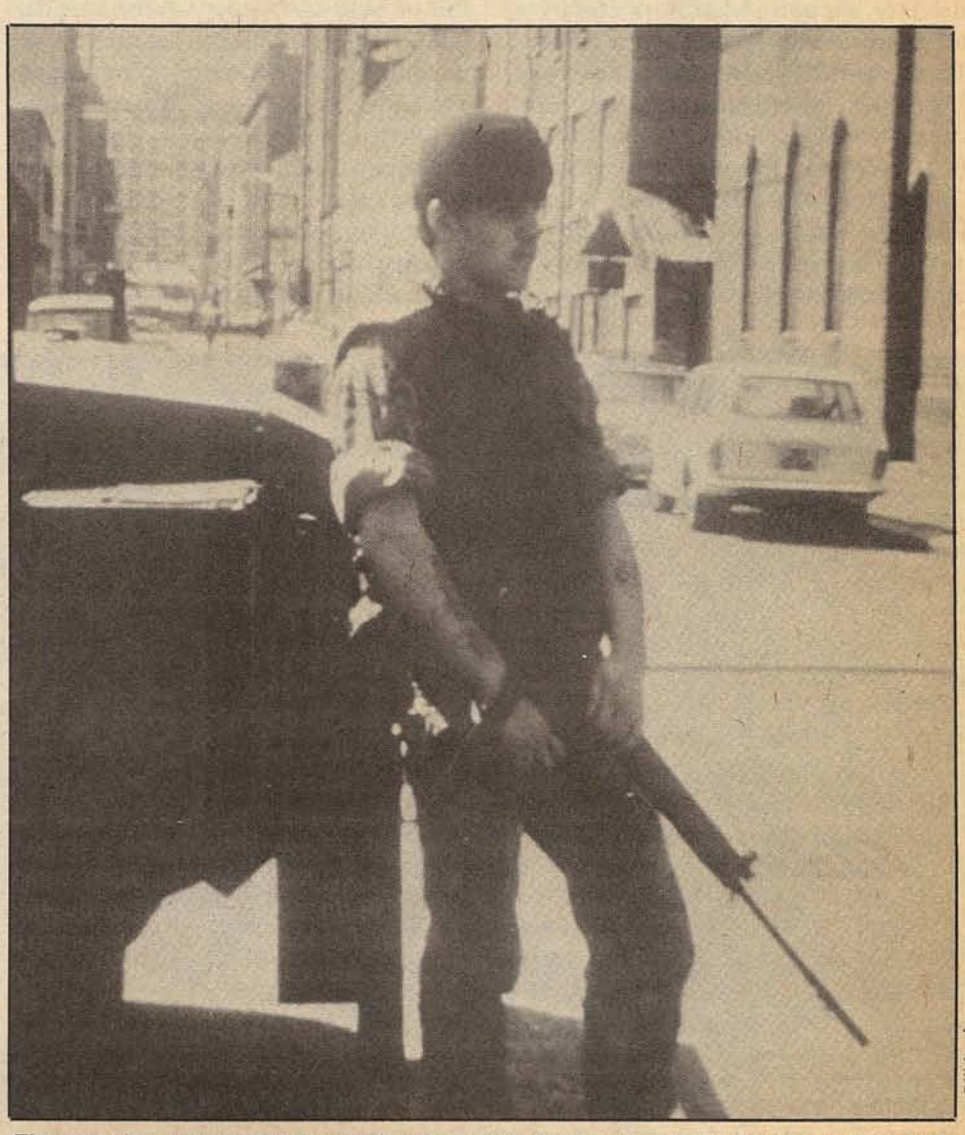
Ireland — 1,000 Years Of Struggle

(In the tenth century the English invaded Ireland and conquered the predominantly Catholic country to the north. For centuries Ireland has provided an important military base for Great Britain and today, more than 14,000 British troops continue to occupy Northern Ireland which remains under British rule. The southern part of the country, known as the Republic of Ireland, was granted independence in the 1920's. The following information provides some historical background on the current struggle in Northern Ireland. William Leahy, a professor of English at Loop College and writer for several Irish publications, assisted in the preparation of this article. Mr. Leahy is active with the Irish Republican Clubs of Chicago.)

At the time of the British invasion of Ireland in the year 1,000 A.D. the population was divided among different Irish clans (extended family groups, friends and neighbors). The people worked the land and a certain percentage of goods was turned over to the king. When the English invaded, the Irish fled to the hills and conducted raids against the English conquerors, who were the Norman Kings of England. A process of "assimilation" took place where many of the "conquerors" began to adopt Irish customs and marry into Irish families.

Under King Henry VIII, England changed the state religion from Catholic to Anglican (the Church of England). Britain attempted to re-conquer Ireland to secure it as a military base. They also wanted to build a colony where the English could send persons considered to be "undesirable." The English conquered an area and then installed British lords as rulers of the various plantations. Irish resistance to British control continued for 200 years until the movement was crushed by King William of Orange in 1688. At the time of the conquest the northern part of Ireland was given to the Protestant nobles and soldiers of Scottish and English descent. Many of the original Irish farmers were forced off the land which was taken over by the settlers from Scotland and England. Religious dissenters (mainly Presbyterians) were expelled from England and relocated in Ireland. They were given small plots of land and jobs in Belfast and Londonderry.

When Britain finally granted independence to Ireland in 1923 the six northern counties were partitioned (separated). This created Northern Ireland which remained under direct British rule. The historical fact was that at the time of the partition only two of the counties were Protestant. Northern Ireland, especially the city of Belfast, had developed into a highly



Bill Leahy

The growing movement for unification in Ireland today calls for the removal of British troops.

industrialized region which made it attractive to British control. By dividing Ireland, the British maintained a division among the people which prevented the country from developing a unified economy and political structure.

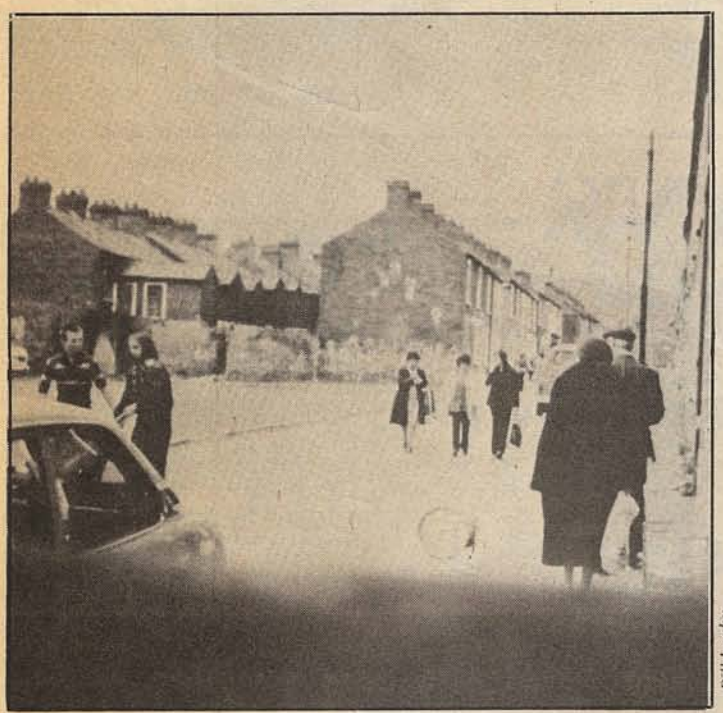
Since the partition, Catholics living in Northern Ireland faced severe discrimination. The major educational, political and economic institutions were controlled by the Protestants. In the shipyards of Belfast, only 100 workers out of 10,000 are Catholic. The skilled trades in mechanics and construction have also been dominated by the Protestants. Political districts are drawn to disenfranchise Catholics.

In the late 1960's, Catholics, students, workers and other groups in Northern Ireland organized a civil rights movement which some observers say reached the proportions of the civil rights struggle of Black people here in the United States. Mass demonstrations and sit-ins demanded an end to job discrimination, called for decent housing in the Catholic areas, quality education and more equal political representation. Demonstrators were beaten, jailed and shot. In the past five or six years limited reforms have been enacted at the local level. Public housing was built in the Catholic sections of Londonderry and other cities and affirmative action programs were set up. While major civil rights legislation has been drafted, nothing has been officially enacted at the national level. Unemployment and job discrimination rank among the leading problems in the country. In Northern Ireland low wages and lack of work have forced many of the Catholics to go to England where they supply cheap labor in industrial towns.

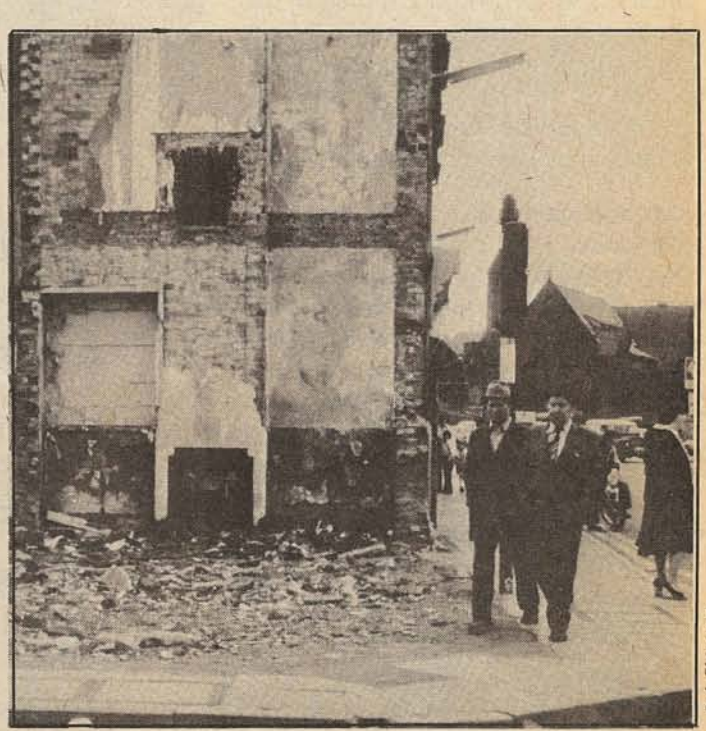
Since the introduction of British troops in 1969, the British have enforced an active policy of stop and frisk. Current laws permit British soldiers to break into homes without a warrant. More than 1,900 persons have been killed and 120,000 injured since the occupation visibly began in 1969. Any Irish person can be detained by a soldier on suspicion of being in the IRA (Irish Republican Army) and imprisoned.

More than 1,900 persons have been killed in Northern Ireland since British troops arrived in 1969.

The continued occupation of Northern Ireland by British troops and the strict segregation of Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods continue the British colonial policies. The historical separation of Ireland by the British, and continued discrimination against the Catholics has intensified the fighting between Protestants and Catholics over the years. But a movement for unification of Ireland is growing, demanding removal of the British troops and a guarantee of civil rights for the Irish people.□



Bill Leahy



Bob Simpson

Bill Leahy

Catholics living in Northern Ireland have faced severe discrimination in employment and housing. Since the late 1960's a strong civil rights movement involving Catholics, workers, students and other groups has demanded a guarantee of civil rights for the Irish people.

Resistance Movement In El Salvador Nears Insurrection

(San Salvador) A growing mass movement to overthrow the military dictatorship of President Carlos Humberto Romero is approaching insurrection in El Salvador, the most densely populated country in Central America. The impoverished nation of 4.2 million is located between Mexico and Nicaragua.

Last month hundreds demonstrated in the capital city of San Salvador, to demand Romero's resignation and protest the murders of seven students 14-18 who belonged to the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (PRB), one of the largest mass organizations opposing the military regime. The program of the PRB, whose membership approaches 70,000, calls for sweeping land reform in the country where 78 percent of the land is owned by only 10 percent of the population and the country's wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few leading families. Recent international statistics indicate that 73 percent of the children of El Salvador are malnourished and more than 10 babies out of 100 die during infancy.

According to the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), a research group in New York, the United States has a vested interest in the outcome of the struggle in El Salvador. Since the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua by the Sandinistas, the United States has been "maneuvering very desperately" to see that "pseudo-reforms" are brought into El Salvador. The U.S. government has sent officials there, including William Bowdler who had previously been sent by the U.S. to negotiate with Somoza. NACLA states that U.S. interests have probably been responsible for pressuring Romero into calling for congressional elections next year. Debate continues, however, within the U.S. government on how to respond to the possible overthrow of the Romero dictatorship. While the CIA, the Dept. of Defense and National Security Council call for a "tough line" and stepped-up armed assistance to Romero, the State Department is arguing for armed assistance "only with some reforms" on the part of Romero. Private U.S. business interests would like to gain entry to El Salvador for investment purposes. But at the present time the Christian Democratic Party, which represents a middle-of-the-road force and which could open the country up to U.S. investment is weak and has no popular support. Currently, American companies have opened runaway shops in El Salvador where the country's urban areas provide a large pool of cheap skilled labor.

In the countryside farm workers who are described as an "agricultural proletariat" and Catholic nuns and priests who oppose Romero have been the target of right-wing attacks. A paramilitary group called ORDEN along with the national police are reported to be responsible for the murders and disappearances of hundreds of farm workers. Catholics who support the antigovernment forces have been harassed and the Catholic radio station has been jammed.

The Guardian reported recently that another mass organization, the Front for Unified Popular Action, announced plans for "a new program of insurrection" which includes actions to "confront and disarm" government troops.□

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Solidarity With Chilean People Celebrated On Sixth Anniversary Of Allende Coup

(Santiago, Chile) September 11th marked the sixth anniversary of the military overthrow of Chilean Socialist President Salvador Allende. Solidarity activities called attention to the growing resistance of the Chilean people against the military regime of Augusto Pinochet.

Speaking in Chicago at a rally sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Save Lives in Chile, Professor Enrique Kirberg, former director of the Polytechnic University, reported on increasing repression of organized labor, the press, higher education and the continued violation of human rights. Under Pinochet university officials have been replaced with military officers. Admissions to the universities have dropped drastically from 140,000 in 1971, to 80,000 in 1977, a result of the growing economic depression in Chile which has left 25 percent of the population unemployed and one-third of the country in starvation. The Pinochet regime, however, continues to get money from United States-supported sources including the World Bank and the Interdevelopment Bank. Chile's debt has risen to more than $7 million.

In Santiago, thousands demonstrated to protest the government's release of military police charged by the state with the secret assassination of 36 "missing persons" in the region of Lonquen and the refusal of the government to return the bodies to the respective families. Another highlight of last month's solidarity movement was a threatened boycott by longshoremen in various countries. The dock workers say they will refuse to handle shipments going to or coming from Chile. "Nothing to the junta, nothing from the junta," is the motto of dock workers in Italy and England. Large quantities of grapes and citrus fruits are currently being shipped to the United States because the Chilean people cannot afford to buy them. The threat of the boycott is intended to pressure the Pinochet government to restore workers' rights including the right to elect their own officers, the right to strike and collective bargaining. Chilean workers who supported Allende have been blacklisted and cannot find employment.□

Chilean workers rally to demand that the government restore their basic rights.

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ALAN PAGE 13 Years On The Line

Over a dozen All-Americans were on the field in the fall of 1966 as Notre Dame and Michigan State played to a 10-10 tie. Only Alan Page and Rocky Bleier are still playing football, making them the last of a legacy that won't be forgotten soon.

Alan Page plays defensive tackle for the Chicago Bears. Graduating as All-American from Notre Dame in 1966, he was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings. At Minnesota he joined Carl Eller, Gary Larsen and Jim Marshall on the defensive line that became famous as the "Purple People Eaters," and led the Vikings to a string of playoffs, divisional championships and 3 Superbowls. That line is now generally regarded as one of the most awesome units in the last 50 years of football. After starting in 150 games in 11 and a half years for the Vikings, Page was waived (football terminology for "let go") by Minnesota in the middle of the 1978-79 season. He signed on with the Chicago Bears almost immediately.

Alan Page is a professional football player. More than that he has symbolized excellence and professionalism for over a decade to tens of millions of people who follow football. He makes his home with his wife and their children in Highland Park.

KEEP STRONG: Could you talk about your background; where you grew up; how you got to Notre Dame?

ALAN PAGE: I was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. I went to Central Catholic High School there and ended up choosing Notre Dame first of all. I was offered scholarships to several schools and Notre Dame was one of them. I ended up choosing Notre Dame over Michigan State and Purdue. The scholarships were equal but in the back of my mind I thought that once I was down there, maybe I would have better opportunity when I was out of college just having a degree from there.

KEEP STRONG: When did you decide to play professional football?

ALAN PAGE: I don't know whether I consciously ever made that decision. It was after playing football at Notre Dame for so many years, three years. It sort of just evolved. I never really thought it through and consciously made that decision. I guess I first began to think about it after my junior year there.

Alan Page - "I still work as hard as I used to."

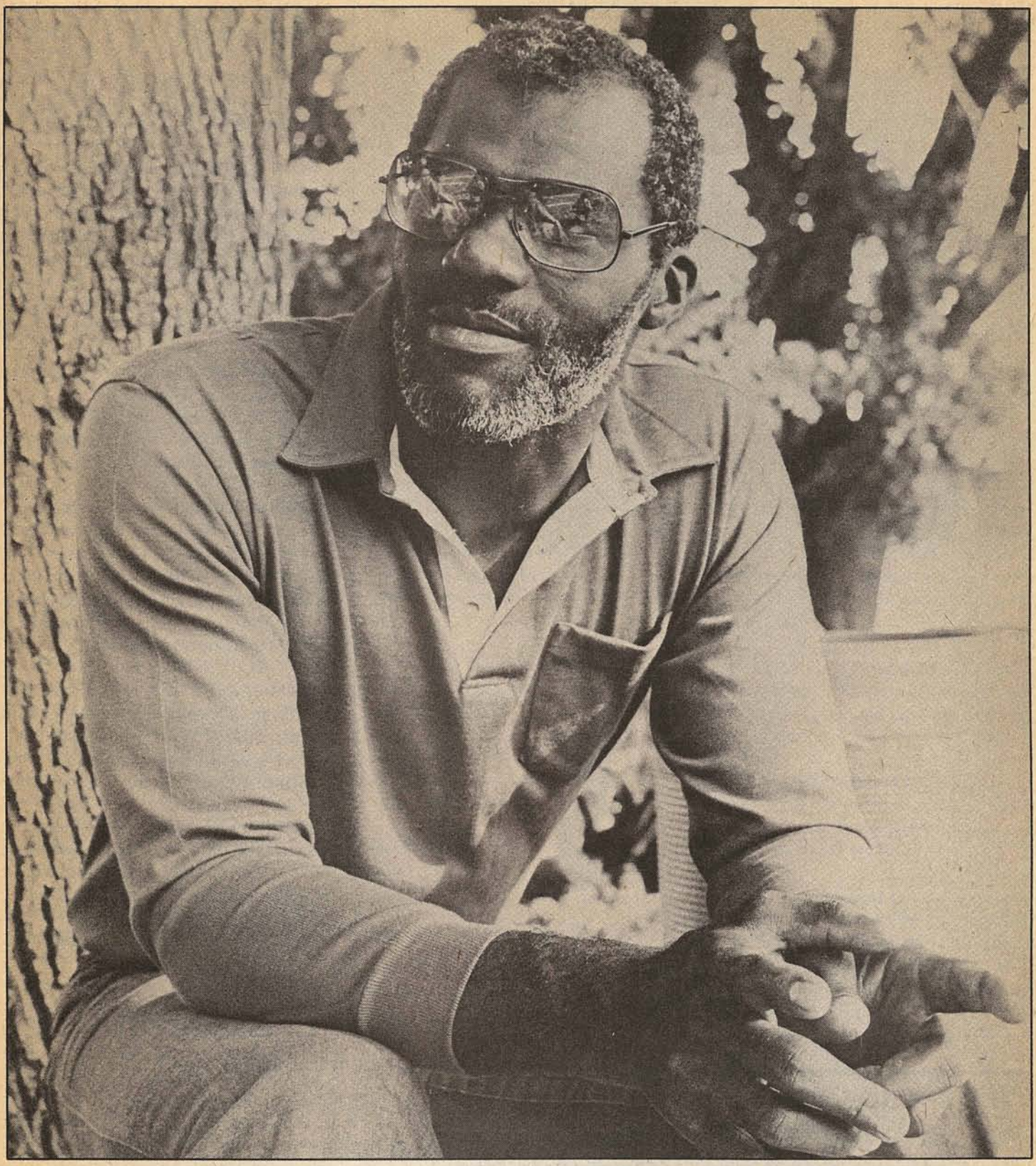
KEEP STRONG: Were you getting offers by your junior year to play professional football?

ALAN PAGE: No. The system doesn't work that way. You get drafted and you're not eligible for the draft until after your senior year. There were two leagues prior to my senior year. They merged that year. Both leagues would send out people to babysit you. But beyond that it was just a matter of being drafted.

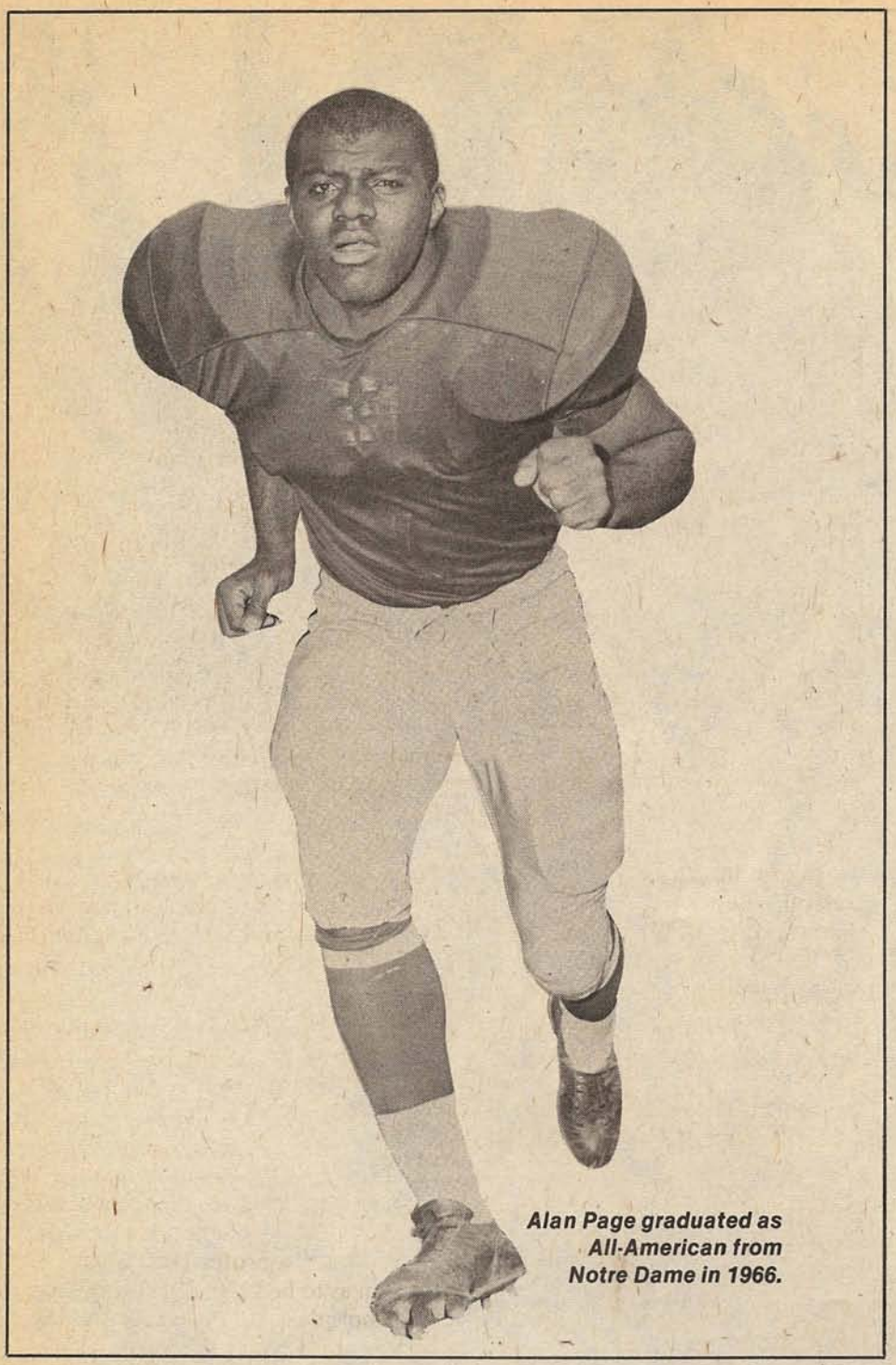
KEEP STRONG: Could you talk a little about the time you spent at Notre Dame?

ALAN PAGE: Back when I was there it was not the same school as it is today. It was 6,000 guys and no women. That turned out to be somewhat of a drag. There was not, certainly not for me and other minority students much social activity at Notre Dame. So that made it a long four years. But I survived it.

KEEP STRONG: What were your first impressions when you entered the



"There's a long life after your professional sports days are over. I've got two, maybe three more years to play and I've got to go into the work force 13 years after everyone else my age. There's just no future in that."



Alan Page graduated as All-American from Notre Dame in 1966.

"It's always there that you are a minority. You see things that others can't see....Certainly the off-the-field benefits don't come. They just don't come."

ALAN PAGE

NFL? Did the fact that you had achieved some kind of fame in college influence you?

ALAN PAGE: No. Once I was determined I was going to play professional football, and I got drafted and signed a contract with Minnesota, I think the uppermost thing in my mind was playing football the best I could. I worked at that very, very hard. That was the number one goal in my life. My second year in the league I enrolled in night law school up in Minneapolis and three weeks later I dropped out because I really hadn't made a commitment to that. I was still committed to trying to be the best football player I could be.

KEEP STRONG: A lot of people think that the old Minnesota line with yourself, Jim Marshall, Gary Larsen and Carl Eller, ranked as one of the great ones of the last 25 years. There's only been three or four. What qualities come together, do you think?

ALAN PAGE: In our case it was hard work, number one and foremost, hard work. Two, I think we all had some talent that unified us and mixed well. Each one of us contributed something to the success that we had. I think the other thing was that we came along at a time when the talents we had could be utilized. I'm not sure that those same talents can be utilized as well today.

KEEP STRONG: What do you mean?

ALAN PAGE: They've changed the rules so much. And I think,and maybe it's naive on my part, but I think they've changed the rules because of some of the things we were doing at that time. I mean we literally began to dominate the football games we were in, and it took away from the offensive show. And the league has always, for some reason or another wanted an offensive show.

KEEP STRONG: It sells tickets?

ALAN PAGE: I think so. But I think

what we did was as exciting or more exciting than most offensive football you'll ever see.

KEEP STRONG: That wasn't a very big offensive line either.

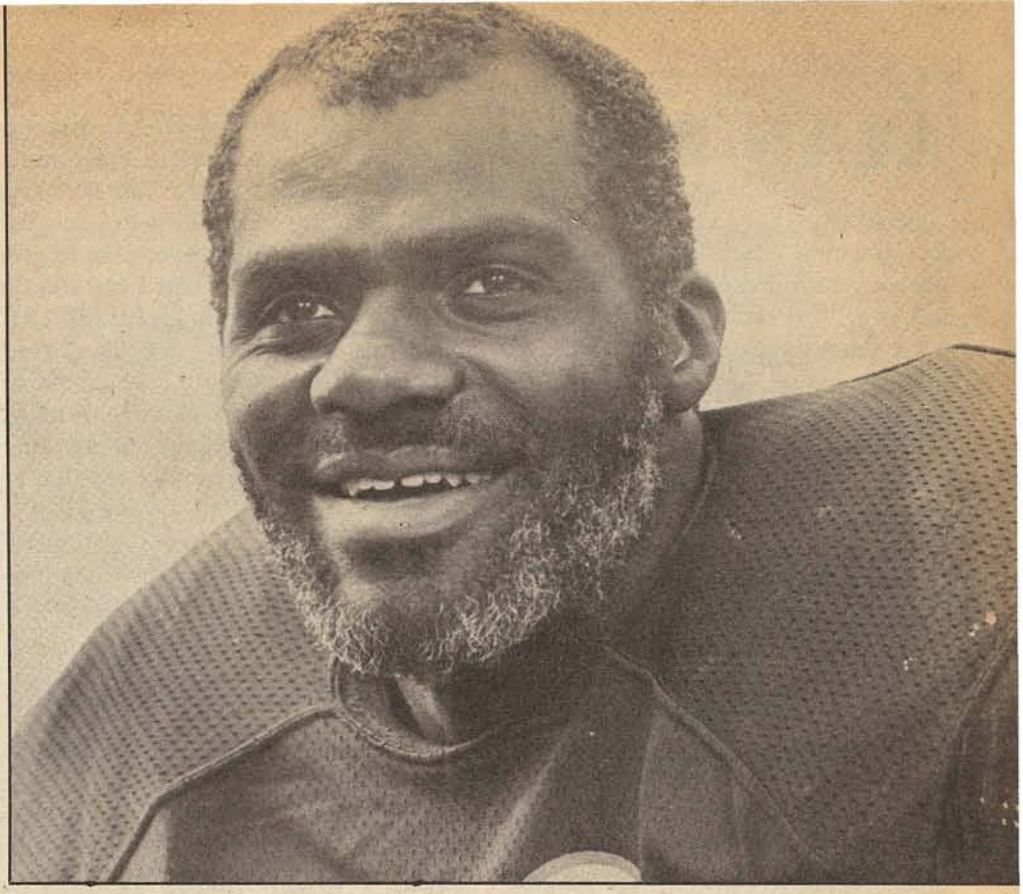
ALAN PAGE: No, not really. Gary Larsen was probably the biggest. He was about 6'5", 265 pounds, and then there was me at 6'3", 248-9 pounds, then Carl Eller, 6'5", 245 pounds, then Jim Marshall who was 6'3", but his weight fluctuated from 240 down to 210.

It was all over the ball park.

KEEP STRONG: For years there's been discussion of a "color line," prejudice that operates in professional sports. In the late '60s, everyone talked about the St. Louis Cardinals and now recently Hank Aaron had something to say about it. I thought with all the time you've spent, you must have some perceptions.

ALAN PAGE: Well, on the teams that I have been on, it's always there that you are a minority. You see things others can't see. Certainly the successful Black ballplayers seem always to have to work a little harder to be successful. Certainly the off the field benefits don't come. They just don't come. With the exception of O.J. Simpson, I can't think of anybody who's really benefited from the off the field endorsements or really anything other than the football. There's more to life than football. I think we, when it comes to endorsements, are just as articulate and just as capable of doing that sort of thing as anyone else.

Look at Walter Payton in Chicago. He should own this town. That is not to say he hasn't been somewhat successful. But you know he should literally own this town.



"If you're fortunate enough to get a scholarship because of your athletic skills, make sure you get an education. There's a long life after your professional sports days are over."

KEEP STRONG: Most people in football last seven or eight years. The more they work, the shorter the time they last.

ALAN PAGE: Most guys don't last that long. Four of five years is a long time in this business.

KEEP STRONG: It's difficult to understand how you can stay in such a competitive position, and a brutal position, and stay as a starter for 13 years.

"The odds on a given high school athlete, particularly a minority athlete becoming a professional athlete are so slim as to be laughable."

ALAN PAGE: I've been lucky. There's no question about that. I've been lucky. Also, I've worked at it. I know my job and know my assignment and I do it. I go out and perform and that's what it takes.

KEEP STRONG: Is it true that a lot of young people in high school or earlier look towards professional sports as an opportunity to succeed?

ALAN PAGE: That is a myth. I think the odds on a given high school athlete, particularly a minority athlete, of becoming a professional athlete are so slim as to be laughable. Certainly some people do make it. But it's nothing that you can realistically work towards. As an example, making a professional team, whether it be basketball, baseball, or whatever, making a team is difficult enough. Then being successful enough to make yourself economically established is even far more difficult.

The number one thing that I would say to people in that situation is get an education. Go to school and get an education. If you're fortunate enough to get a college scholarship because of

ALAN PAGE

your athletic skills, make sure you get an education. Because there's a long life after your professional sports days are over. I've got two maybe three more years to play and I've got to go into the work force 13 years after everyone else my age. There's just no future in that.

I heard a statistic that if you complete college your chances are 200 times better of getting into graduate school than they are making it as a professional athlete. 200 times better. Somebody who graduated with me and went on to graduate school is now out in the work force. They may not make as much money as I do at the moment, but they are far more established in their chosen field and I'm going to take a severe drop in income when I'm done playing.

KEEP STRONG: Why did you decide to make jogging a matter of principle with Minnesota?

"I know my job and my assignment and I do it. That's what it takes."

ALAN PAGE: My best guess is that was only one small part of it. I became a runner because I enjoyed it. I love to run, it's been a part of my life now for two years and I don't ever plan to give it up. Given the fact that I can still do it, I don't ever plan to give it up. That was just an excuse, I believe, they thought they could use it to get rid of me. The loss of weight, the running and a number of things. I suppose that they may have perceived me after 11 and a half years, of having been a thorn in their side. I think they thought that particular time was their opportunity to do me in. Actually, it's been a good thing for me.

KEEP STRONG: It hasn't been too good for them.

ALAN PAGE: I guess I don't feel sorry for them.

KEEP STRONG: They're supposed to be fairly astute people.

ALAN PAGE: Not necessarily. They've made mistakes before. I think I'm an exception because and only because, Jim Finks, Neil Armstrong and Buddy Ryan are here. I think, had they not been here, I might never have caught on with another team. That's very likely. I played there for 11 and a half years and after 11 and a half successful years to have the head coach say that I can't play anymore, that I'm washed up. What team in their right mind is going to take a look at me. Why would they bother. Here's the team he's been playing with saying he can't play. He's played well for them all these years, there must be something wrong.

KEEP STRONG: The impression I got was that they offered you...

ALAN PAGE: It's not true. Actually I lost the weight in 1977. That year the head coach called me in and we talked about the weight and he said, "Well, we'll see how it goes." In 1977 it went pretty good, I thought. In '77 Neil Armstrong and Buddy Ryan were in Minnesota. In 1978 they came to Chicago. They brought in a new coaching staff, two new coaches, a new defensive coordinator and tried to change the style and philosophy of the defense they were playing. And what they wanted me to do really didn't suit my talents. I don't think it suits any of the people that were there when I was or the people who are there now, their talents. But I tried to do it and did it to the best of my ability. And if you look at the statistics that they compiled I was doing it better than anybody else and and granted, I don't think I was playing very well. I was doing what I was told. I think that's when they decided. "Well we can pin it on the weight because we can show statistically he's not doing what he used to do." Forget the fact that I weighed the same in '77 as I did in '78. I went back and looked at my statistics from '75, '76 and '77. The '77 statistics are better than '75 and '76, when I was 20 pounds heavier. It's kind of an interesting comparison.

KEEP STRONG: The commentators say you're so fast. Has the weight loss been a factor in your picking up speed?

ALAN PAGE: I didn't pick up any speed. I'm basically as fast or as slow as I was before. I still work as hard as I used to. I'm still doing the same things as hard as I used to. I've still been as lucky as I was before.

KEEP STRONG: Do you think that Jim Finks has been a factor in the development of the team?

ALAN PAGE: I think so. In that certainly he's got Neil and Buddy Ryan here. And even before then the character of the team changed. Even under Pardee the team was changing. One of the things that's always hurt them, at least since I've been in the league, is they always beat themselves. They always made mistakes, did things that didn't help you to win. It's almost like they'd rather fight than play football. And that's fine if you're in a fight, but that doesn't help you win football games. And they've turned that around. And that whole process started when Finks got here. If there is one thing that will help the success of this team more than anything, it will be that transition. □

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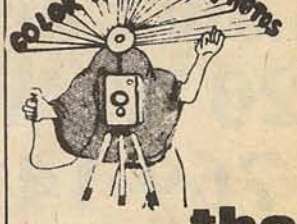

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Illinois Prisons in Black and White — *Continued by popular demand from many places.*

Women in the Work Force — *The beginning of a first hand investigation into the role of women in a changing society, their perceptions, experiences and struggles.*

Plus

Developments in occupational health and safety, the law, housing, the economy, welfare rights, jobs, employment, unemployment and labor struggles, sports, entertainment, the nationwide struggles for social justice and liberation movements across the world....The people and the communities that struggle daily to survive

About The Back Cover

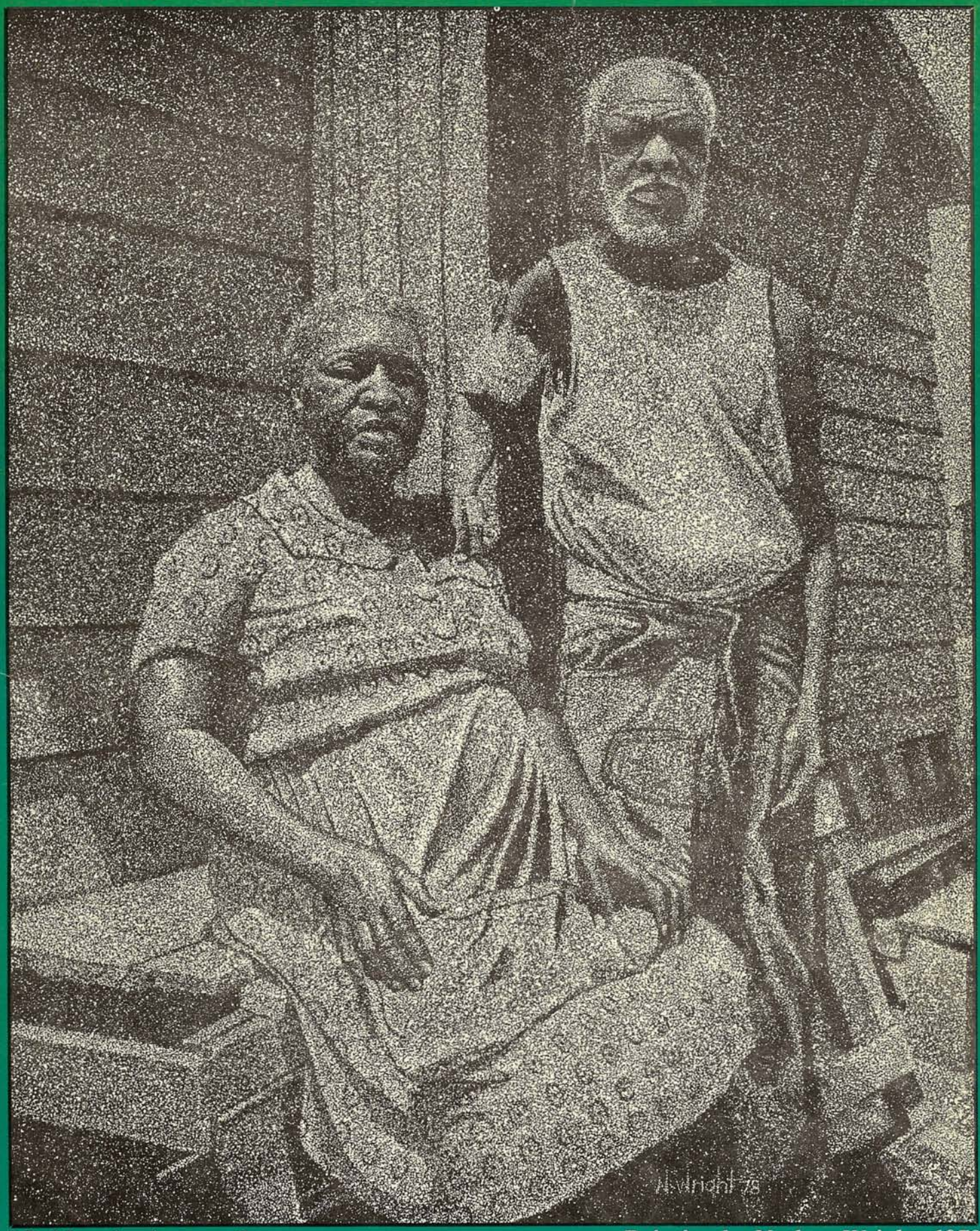
This month's back cover is a painting by Nathan Wright. Mr. Wright is an inmate at Pontiac Prison. He has been incarcerated for 11 years. Convicted of attempted armed robbery and conspiracy-murder, Mr. Wright has argued his innocence since his arrest. He is still fighting his case and continues to gather and produce evidence on his own behalf. (See Keep Strong, November 1979 for details.)

While in prison Mr. Wright developed his artistic talents. His work, which includes hundreds of pieces, has been shown and acclaimed across the country. He teaches art within the prison and is presently organizing an "artists workshop" program there, explaining "art can contribute towards closing the gap between hopelessness and hopefulness."

Mr. Wright is married and has two children, Nathan Jr., 12 and Lisa, 14.

Posters of the back cover "Golden Anniersary" are available. Send $10 (check or money order) to Darlene Wright, 16405 S. Ashland, Markham, Illinois 60426.

Community Art Series



"Golden Anniversary" *Painting by Nathan Wright, 1978*